

Search under way for new leader
After five years, Shanti's Bob Rybicki to leave post at the end of June.

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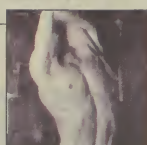
Pride kicks off!
Santa Cruz event this weekend, Monterey 6/15.

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Male delivery
'Everyman: A Search for the Male Form' at SF Camerawork.

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 22 • 30 May 2002

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Partners inheritance bill clears Assembly

by Zak Szymanski

A bill that would establish how domestic partners inherit each other's property passed the California Assembly on Monday, May 20 and is about to make its way through Senate committee hearings. The vote was 41-29 in favor of the bill.



Fred Keeley

AB2216, authored by Assemblyman Fred Keeley (D-Boulder Creek), provides surviving domestic partners the right to inherit a partial to entire share of their lover's property if that partner dies without a will.

Currently, only domestic partners who have the foresight, time, and money to draw up wills can avoid most of the legal hassles of keeping their property should one partner die. AB25, the domestic partner bill by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) which took effect at the beginning of this year, had originally included an automatic inheritance provision, but that passage was removed during final negotiations with Governor Gray Davis.

Without such guidelines, surviving domestic partners without wills have no legal right to assets left behind, including their homes if the deceased partner's name is on the title. As a result, they are often caught up in legal battles with their lover's immediate families, and can suffer economic hardships on top of their emotional loss.

"Including surviving domestic partners in our intestate succession laws recognizes these individuals as family members to a deceased domestic partner, prevents undue hardship to an economically dependent partner, and discourages disputes between family members over the disposition of assets," said Keeley, who is reportedly optimistic that his bill will make it to Davis's desk and earn his signature, as both the Assembly and the Senate passed the inheritance provision of AB25 last year.

Supporters of the bill are banking on delivering the message of family cohesion to Davis and other elected officials, encouraging community members to write letters that emphasize the bill's ability to encourage domestic partners to act as a family unit and protect each other if they make economic sacrifices for the benefit of the domestic partnership.

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Don't mess with Texas!

Stephen Weber of Dallas, Texas, took top honors at the International Mr. Leather 2002 contest held Sunday, May 26 in Chicago. Weber prevailed over 65 other hopefuls in the contest, which was attended by thousands of leather faithful. For all the dish see Mister Marcus's column on page 42.

Mister Marcus

Pageant promotes HIV prevention amongst Latinos

by Matthew S. Bajko

For a culture that shies away from frank discussions about sex, the popularity of the annual Miss and Mr. Gay Safe Latino Pageant seems out of sync for the Latino community.

Yet somehow the event is a runaway success. Now in its 11th year, the pageant has grown so popular its organizers have rented out the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre for next week's competition.

It's a far cry from the first pageant held at Esta Noche, a Mission District gay bar popular among Latinos and known for its drag shows. Besides being a new and larger venue, the fine arts theater is a coming out of sorts for the Latino gay, bisexual, and transgender community into the Latino community at large.

"Its success is because people understand the HIV epidemic has hit hard in the Latino community. The numbers in the Latino com-

munity are getting higher," said Angel Vladimir Oliveros, a health educator at Instituto Familiar de la Raza and an organizer of the pageant. "People are more aware of AIDS within the Latino community. People want to take the message about HIV prevention out to the community."



HIV/AIDS prevention worker Angel Vladimir Oliveros

Out of the nearly 3,000 reported AIDS cases within San Francisco's Latino community since 1980, gay or bisexual Latino men account for 74 percent of all cases. According to the Department of Public Health's Quarterly Surveillance Report for January through March of this year, there are nearly 1,000 documented gay or bisexual Latino men living with AIDS.

The city estimates that 1,611 gay and bisexual Latino men are living with HIV, according to the 2001 San Francisco HIV Prevention Plan. The city also estimates that one-third of all gay and bisexual Latino men are HIV-positive.

Studies done by the health department

page 17 ▶

FTM files lawsuit against SFPD and sheriff's department

by Zak Szymanski

A transgender man has filed a \$25 million lawsuit against the city and county of San Francisco's police and sheriff's departments, alleging discrimination and excessive use of force during an incident in which he was arrested. The lawsuit was filed in San Francisco Superior Court on May 21 and also names San Francisco Housing Services as a defendant.

According to the suit, Jeremy Burke, 36, was visiting his partner's apartment in the 300 block of Ellis Street on August 13, 2001. Subscribing to what he believed to be protocol, Burke reportedly tried to submit his identification to the apartment complex guard on duty, but the guard would not accept it and told Burke he could not go upstairs to visit his partner. Burke then reportedly told the guard that he was a frequent visitor, and that his lover was ill with congestive heart failure and could not come down to get him. As Burke attempted to enter the elevator, the lawsuit states, the security guard pushed and shoved him, and the two rode up to the second floor together where Burke's boyfriend assured the guard that everything was okay.

Approximately 15 minutes later, after the security guard had already left, the suit alleges that San Francisco police officers knocked on the apartment door, dragged Burke out of a chair, punched him in the face and chest, and slammed his head into the floor several times. Burke was taken to a police station in the Tenderloin District and booked for assault, battery, resisting arrest, and trespassing. At the

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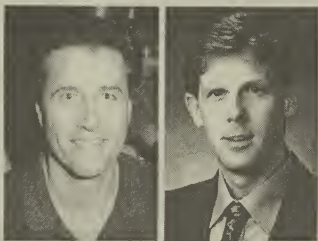
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New additions for Sat. Pride

by Zak Szymanski

Jazz and blues will set the tone for San Francisco Pride's main stage on Saturday, June 29, organizers announced last week, with a lineup that includes British singer/songwriter Julia Fordham, Faye Carol, and Gwen Avery.

This is the first time that the Saturday stage will have a particular theme running through its entertainment, and it has been programmed to starkly contrast the harder edge of Sunday's performers.

"Usually the Saturday program has been too similar to what goes on Sunday," said Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington. "We wanted to do something very distinct that involved a musical genre that

people like and that hasn't had a venue before."

Saturday's main stage program will begin, as is tradition, with a Stand Against Hate rally led by Community United Against Violence at noon. The hour-long program will feature performance, spoken word, and poetry that calls for an end to violence and hatred across the board. CUAV itself was recently the victim of anti-Arab graffiti, along with the Women's Building and Community Thrift in the Mission District.

At 1 p.m. will be third annual domestic partnership ceremony, hosted by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco). At least 100 couples are expected to recite their commitments and register their partnership at the state level.

A cake-cutting, champagne toast, and gift baskets will be provided. Couples wishing to take part should contact Kirsten Boyd at Migden's office at (415) 557-3000. In addition, both PFLAG and Our Family Coalition will be registering domestic partnerships on site at the event.

A variety of speakers will be interspersed with Saturday's jazz and blues performances, including Surna Khan from the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, former Supervisor Harry Britt, and Veneita Porter of the Bay Area Bisexual Network. The musical sets will be longer than usual, and full bands will add to the atmosphere.

For a complete listing of the Saturday celebration visit www.sfpd.org. ▼

Punk party at the Lexington Club celebrates TG grand marshal victories

by Zak Szymanski

When a couple of self-described outsiders to the mainstream LGBT community win the honor of Pride Parade grand marshals, a party is in order.

Transgender activists and artists Christopher Lee and Shawna Virago, who broke a Pride record when they garnered close to 2,300 votes each, invite their supporters to a "Black and White Punk Gala" next Thursday, June 6 at San Francisco's only full-time lesbian and gender-queer bar, the Lexington Club.

"We are very honored to be

representing a movement so diverse and perverse," said a statement from Lee and Virago. "But this is not just about Christopher and Shawna - it's about you and coming together as a community."

The thank-you party runs from 8-10 p.m. and is free and open to everyone 21 and over. Black and white punk attire - of any era - is requested, and snacks and soft drinks will be provided. A special guest DJ will be spinning punk tunes.

"It's time to celebrate and raise some hell so come join Satan's Little Darlings," said Lee and Virago, "for some dancin' and romancin' as we take back our city of sin."

These hipsters also hope to see their supporters at the official grand marshal dance on Saturday, June 29 at 9 p.m., after the Dyke March, at Club Junk, Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market Street. And interested people are also invited to dress in "glampride" gear and march with them along Market Street on Sunday, June 30.

Next Thursday's event is scent-free, and the Lexington Club is located between Mission and Valencia at 3464 19th Street. For more information on events hosted by this glamorous duo, visit <http://members.tripod.com/little-darlings666/> or e-mail votedarlings@aol.com. ▼

Queer disability conference kicks off Sun.

by Zak Szymanski

Their voices have been growing steadily through the years, and with a gathering that announces their intent to be "wallflowers no more," differently-abled LGBT people are declaring this Sunday and Monday as the "birth of the queer disability movement."

The first-ever International Queer Disability Conference takes place June 2-3 at San Francisco State University and will feature a wide range of participation and presentations by members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, intersexed, and disabled communities.

"In addition to representing the cutting-edge thinking and arts of an emerging movement, the conference emphasizes a broad definition of disability which centrally includes HIV/AIDS, cancer, and chronic dis-

eases," according to conference spokeswoman Hannah Doress. "With disabilities and chronic diseases burgeoning in the general population, the issues addressed at the conference will be increasingly pressing and visible for our community in the coming years."

Sessions and workshops include disability and political performance; "crip" and queer women in performance; legal and political perspectives of coming out as queer and disabled; exploring queer disabled sexualities; allies and lovers of disabled queers; invisibility as a result of non-apparent disabilities; and the intersex movement.

Writer-activist-amputee Nomy Lamm, tranny-disabled poet Eli Clare, and deaf writer/filmmaker Raymond Luczak are just a few of the featured performers during the conference, and disabled queer artwork, exhibits, and videos will also be presented.

Although the deadline for access requests has passed, full accessibility is naturally the goal of the conference, and that includes sign language, real-time captioning, wheelchair access, and alternative formats for print materials. The conference adheres to a no-scents policy and will provide a quiet room for relaxation and attendees will be on hand to provide assistance to participants.

Participants who need information on attendant care, interpreters, oxygen rental, and accessible public toilets as well as hotels and transportation in the San Francisco area should visit www.accessna.com/san_francisco/.

Conference registration is \$50-\$100 sliding scale, and available space is filling up fast. Visit www.disabledwomen.net/queer/ for more information, including listings of accommodations and related events in the Bay Area. To register, call (510) 235 7477. ▼

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DA to fight Knoller-Noel motion for new trial

by Ed Walsh

Prosecutors in the Diane Whipple dog-mauling case are gearing up to fight a defense motion that asks for a new trial.

Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel, the caretakers of the two dogs involved in the fatal attack on Whipple, are scheduled to appear in court on Friday, June 7. Unless San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren grants the defense a new trial, the pair will be sentenced to state prison at that time.

Noel and Knoller were convicted of involuntary manslaughter and keeping a mischievous animal that killed a person. Knoller, who was with the dogs during the January 26, 2001 hallway attack, was also convicted of second-degree murder. Knoller faces a sentence of 15-years-to-life. Noel could be sentenced to four years, but with credit for time served in county jail, he could be free on parole in less than a year.

In a motion filed last Thursday, May 23, Knoller's appellate attorney, Dennis Riordan, wrote that Knoller should be granted a new trial because the couple's trial was unfair.

Riordan alleged that there was no evidence of implied malice against Knoller because she had no reasonable expectation that her actions of walking the dogs could have resulted in death.

Prosecutors cited more than 30 incidents of previous run-ins that other people have had with the dogs, bolstering their contention that the couple knew their dogs were dangerous but did virtually nothing to mitigate the danger.

Riordan countered in his arguments that Knoller had no warning that the dogs were capable of killing someone.

"The frequency of death in the 30-odd events emphasized by [lead prosecutor Jim Hammer] was zero," wrote Riordan.

Hammer told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he plans to file his response to Riordan's motion by the end of this week.

"None of these issues surprise us," he said. "It's what we expected."

Riordan also argued in his filing that Knoller could not be convicted of both manslaughter and second-degree murder.

Prosecutors have maintained that a conviction of both charges is legal. They pointed out that Knoller faces no more prison time than if she was found guilty of second-degree murder alone.

Riordan contends that Knoller was unfairly associated with the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang and was tainted by the actions of Noel, her husband.

"The day is past when a woman can be stoned for the sins of her husband," wrote Riordan.

The couple's adopted son, Paul "Cornfed" Schneider, is an inmate

at California's notorious Pelican Bay State Prison. Prosecutors maintain that Schneider and his cellmate, Dale Bretches, are part of the case because the couple contended that the prisoners are the legal owners of the dogs. Department of Corrections authorities say that both men are members of the prison gang.

Riordan also wrote that Warren unfairly silenced Knoller's trial attorney, Nedra Ruiz, when Ruiz stood to object during part of Hammer's closing argument. Riordan recounted that Warren angrily told Ruiz that he would put her in a holding cell if she continued to interrupt.

Prosecutors have maintained that Warren was very fair to the defense. They said that Warren ruled to keep out some of the most inflammatory evidence against the couple.

The defense has promised to take the case to the appeals court if Warren doesn't grant a new trial.

Meanwhile, the prosecution has prepared the necessary paperwork to appeal a \$750 fine Warren imposed on District Attorney Terence Hallinan for violating his gag order after Hallinan told a reporter that Knoller lied to a grand jury. Hallinan told the *B.A.R.* that Warren didn't file the necessary affidavit alleging the specific violation. Hallinan said he didn't violate the gag order because the order Warren cited was issued after he made his statement to the reporter. ▼



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Swipe

by Jane Warner

Bank of America, 501 Castro, May 27, 2:05 a.m.: About to make a deposit, a man stood in front of the ATM punching in his code while holding an envelope containing \$300. Suddenly, a man snatched the envelope from his hand and began running southbound on Castro. Giving chase, the victim dialed 911 on his cell phone as he ran after the suspect, but lost him as he turned the corner on 19th Street. Police searched the area but could not find the thief, described as African American, 6 feet tall, 175 pounds, 25-30 years old, wearing a black jacket, black knit cap, and black pants.

Song sung blue

Martuni's, 4 Valencia Street, May 24, 12:30 a.m.: After leaving Martuni's bar, a man was walking under the freeway when he felt someone tap him on the shoulder. Turning to see who it was, the

man was caught off guard by another man who punched him in the eye. The victim momentarily blacked out, and when he came to, he was on the sidewalk face down and felt the suspect take his wallet from his back pocket. The robber, described as a white male, 6 feet tall, 200 pounds, and wearing tan pants, was last seen walking toward Safeway.



Sweet deal

17th and Hartford, May 23, 4:30 a.m.: Police responded to a report of three men fighting and throwing each other on top of car hoods. When officers arrived, they observed two men get into a blue Nissan, and a third man climbed into the trunk of the car and closed the lid behind him as the car sped off. While they chased after it, officers ran the license plate and discovered that the car had been stolen. A traffic stop was effected at 19th and Castro. As officers approached the car, the man hiding in the trunk suddenly jumped out and began to run away. Officers

chased after him, and after a scuffle, he fell to the ground. Back-up officers arrived and the three men were arrested without further incident. When questioned about the stolen vehicle, the driver said his "Sugar Daddy" from Beverly Hills gave him the car, and he'd been driving it around for a few days.

Get punished this Sat.

Moby Dick's, 4049 18th Street, June 1, 3-7 p.m.: Ever wonder what it's like to be handcuffed? Join officers from Mission Station in an auction this Saturday afternoon and find out as they handcuff willing participants and raffle off police memorabilia. Prizes include, among other things, an official SFPD T-shirt, a set of cuffs, a box of doughnuts, and a date with the cop of your dreams. Proceeds from this beer benefit go toward the gay and lesbian police officers' Pride Parade contingent. Don't miss the fun. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.

Medical pot actions planned for June 6

by Liz Highleyman

Next Thursday, June 6, medical marijuana advocates around the country will hold a nationwide day of action to protest federal Drug Enforcement Administration attempts to close down medical cannabis buyers clubs and "recriminalize" medical marijuana.

Locally, actions will take place at noon both at the DEA office at 450 Golden Gate Avenue in San Francisco and at the Federal Building, 1300 Clay Street, in downtown Oakland.

The actions will transpire the day before federal Judge Charles Breyer is scheduled to issue his final ruling concerning an injunction against the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative and several other Northern California medical marijuana clubs. Earlier this month Breyer denied a request to lift a 1998 injunction that prohibits the clubs from dispensing cannabis; many medical marijuana advocates expect that he will make the injunction permanent.

Advocates also predict that if Breyer issues a permanent injunction, the DEA will move to close Bay Area medical cannabis dispensaries that remain in operation.

As reported last week, just a day after Breyer's May 3 ruling, Cannabis Helping Alleviate Medical Problems - better known as CHAMP - closed the doors of its Church Street club. Formerly one of the city's largest medical marijuana clubs, CHAMP's attorney Bill Panzer said that if the club had stayed open, it would likely be the target of a federal raid.

On June 6, activists plan to issue "cease and desist" orders at various DEA and federal offices around the country, demanding that the agency stop harassing medical marijuana patients and dispensaries. Other "creative actions," including civil disobedience, may take place in various cities. Activists also will send a letter to President Bush demanding that he cease actions against medical cannabis users and providers.

The day of action is spearheaded by Berkeley-based Americans for Safe Access, a grassroots cam-

paign organized to push the federal government to grant states the right to determine their own medical marijuana laws. ASA is a collaborative effort of groups including the Cannabis Action Network, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, the Marijuana Policy Project, the Drug Policy Alliance, and Students for Sensible Drug Policy. ASA is developing an emergency response network to respond rapidly to any future DEA raids against medical cannabis clubs.

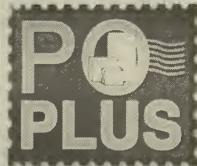
"We are putting the federal government on notice," said ASA director Steph Sherer. "We have played by the rules. We have a state law in place and we have worked with city officials, state officials, and local law enforcement; we have done everything by the book. We are now taking a 'zero tolerance' stand against the federal government and the DEA." ▼

For more information about the upcoming day of action and for campaign materials, visit www.safaccessnow.org.

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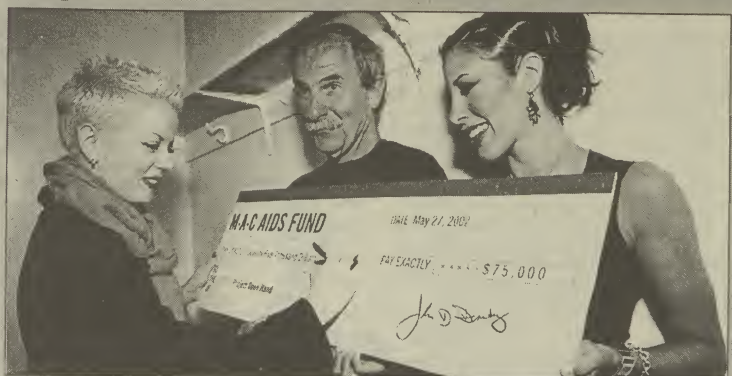


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Shirley Manson, left, singer for the band Garbage, signed a check for \$75,000 that was presented Monday, May 27 to Project Open Hand on behalf of the M•A•C Cosmetics AIDS Fund as Executive Director Tom Nolan and Yvette Swallow from M•A•C Cosmetics look on. Manson presented the check before the band's concert. The cosmetic company's AIDS fund has raised more than \$23 million to date, helping over 400 agencies around the world.

Victor Arimondi photo retrospective opens Sat.

by Cynthia Laird

A collection of more than 100 images by the late gay photographer Victor Arimondi will open this Saturday, June 1 with a champagne and chocolate reception at the Atelier Gallery in San Francisco.

Arimondi: A Retrospective marks the world release of this collection, which will be on display and for sale permanently at the gallery.

Arimondi, who died last July at the age of 58 in San Francisco, knew the camera from both sides: in front as a model and behind as an artist. His images fall into four general, but in no way tidy, categories: fashion, portrait, still life, and erotic. Arimondi pushed the limits of one genre into the next, resulting in diverse works open to interpretation.

"Such was the all-consuming relationship he had with the camera: together they created a distinctive and personal perspective on and connection with the

world," according to a statement from the gallery. "But for Arimondi, the human condition was not just to be documented, but borne out and survived through creativity and living itself."

Born in 1942, Arimondi left his native Italy in 1961 to attend art school in Stockholm, where his family lived for a couple of years during his childhood. In 1965, he had his first encounter with the camera, as its subject. His natural good looks and need to support himself had led him to modeling, where he quickly established himself. Over the next seven years he worked in Paris, Milan, London, Germany, New York, and Montreal on a spectrum of assignments from *Vogue* to *Bazaar*.

Despite the success and glamour, however, Arimondi felt unfulfilled. He later explained: "Working with talented photographers for so many years made me realize that it could be a way to express my inner world." So he decided to get behind the camera. He started with fashion photography and branched out into other areas.

Arimondi's experimentation with the still life genre produced some of his most original and interesting images. According to a write-up of Arimondi by Laura Richard Janku, "While it can be argued that many of his nudes and fashion photographs were a form still life, such as *Dovanna, New York, 1978* and *Erotic Study 5, San Francisco 1999*, the works devoid of life announce a new direction. Many, like *Still Life (Letter) 1980*, *Still Life (Powder Puffs) 1980*, and *Still Life (Bones) 1980* are primarily formal studies with symbolic content in the historical tradition of still life: letter as a metaphor for rational knowledge, powder puffs as vanity, skull and bones as mortality. Even when depicting objects Arimondi chooses those with strong human traces and connections."

Saturday's opening reception takes place from 5-10 p.m. at Atelier Gallery, 2354 Market Street, Penthouse. The event is open to the public but people must call (415) 861-8216 to be placed on the guest list. ▼

Contra Costa gay center to host 'Honors Night'

by Cynthia Laird

Steve Weir, Contra Costa County clerk-recorder, will be honored by the Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County (RCC) at its annual "Honors Night" next Friday, June 8 at the Walnut Creek Marriott.

Weir, one of the longest-serving elected officials in the East Bay county, is one of only 214 openly gay elected officials in the country, according to a recent report. He has served as an elected member of the Contra Costa Water District Board, the Concord City Council, and for the past 12 years in his current position. Weir recently won re-election to the seat, with

no opposition on the March ballot.

The community center's Honors Night benefit recognizes those who have actively supported the LGBT community in Contra Costa County. In addition to Weir, the center will also honor other longtime volunteers Terri De Los Reyes, Vince Scalise, and Shirley Wilson. The event includes dinner, silent and live auctions, and entertainment.

In addition to his duties as an elected official, Weir has been a regular participant in and supporter of the California AIDS Ride. The community center has had large contingents on rides in previous years.

Community center board members noted Weir serves as a

role model for those hoping to enter the political arena while being honest about their sexual orientation.

"This is not San Francisco, where a gay political figure is not uncommon," said Melitta Rorty, RCC board president. "Steve has been very courageous to come out publicly, to work for the betterment of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people's lives in this county, and to publicly represent the gay community in an important county elected position."

Ticket price for the evening is \$100 per person; the event gets under way at 6 p.m. The Walnut Creek Marriott is located at 2355 North Main Street. For more information, call the Rainbow Community Center at (925) 692-0090. ▼

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OPEN FORUM

This Dick sucks!

No, we're not talking about that part of the male anatomy; rather, the headline refers to that virulent homophobe, House Majority Leader Dick Arme. Last week, Arme killed a bill that would have extended death benefits to the survivors of gay chaplain Mychal Judge and nine other public safety officers who died during the September 11 terrorist attacks; current law allows these federal benefits (\$250,000 per victim) to go only to parents, spouses, or children of the victim.

The proposal, reported the *New York Post* (which ironically, is often sensational when covering gay-related stories), had already passed the Senate unanimously and would have extended the benefits to the siblings or domestic partners of the 10 victims, who had no "legal" beneficiaries.

The measure had already passed in the House Judiciary Committee but was pulled from consideration by the full House by Arme, who reportedly said he needed to "study" the issue. Other Capitol Hill sources told the *Post* that the legislation was pulled because some lawmakers were "uncomfortable" extending recognition to same-sex domestic partners.

Even groups not normally involved in the fight for LGBT equal rights were stunned, according to the *Post*. George Burke of the International Association of Firefighters said it was an "outrage." William Johnson of the National Association of Police Organizations said his group was "very angry."

Judge died in the debris from the twin towers as he was administering last rites to a firefighter. Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani was distraught by his death, as were the many firefighters; the Franciscan priest was affectionately known to many as "Father Mike."

Arme's move last week is nothing less than a despicable action by an angry man who is nearing the end of his career. Last December, we jumped for joy when Arme announced he would not seek re-election in 2002. That a lame-duck legislator could single-handedly torpedo legislation affecting survivors of the victims of September 11 is unconscionable — and something with which he will have to live.

Of course, Arme's latest anti-gay move doesn't surprise us. After all, he's the same Dick Arme who not once but twice made dis-

paraging, homophobic comments invoking the name of openly gay Congressman Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts). In 1995, most readers will recall, Arme referred to Frank as "Barney Fag" in a radio interview with reporters. Arme was forced to apologize for his so-called verbal stumble. And Frank, with his characteristic humor, said that he had recently spoken to his mother, and was confident that after more than 50 years of being a Mrs. Frank, no one had ever "stumbled" and addressed her as "Mrs. Fag."

Arme's second comment occurred in August 2000. According to news reports, *Miami Herald* columnist Dave Barry approached the House leader and asked, "Are you really Dick Arme?" To which Arme replied, "Yes, I am Dick Arme. And if there is a dick army, Barney Frank would want to join up." Arme's staff confirmed the report, but insisted that the remarks were "taken out of context" and were "not anti-gay." This second incident

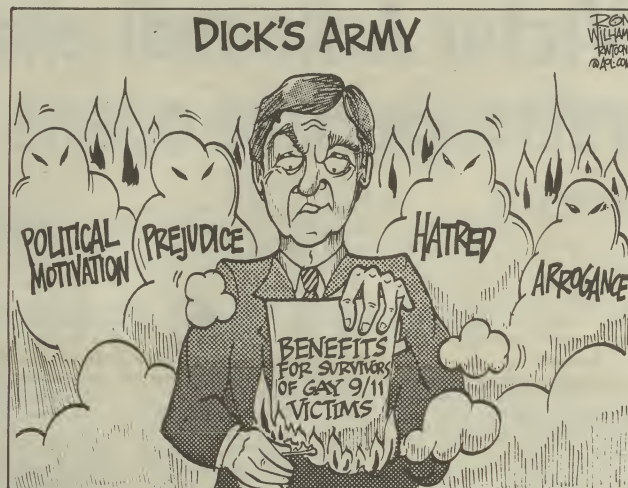
took place shortly after the 2000 Republican National Convention that emphasized tolerance, inclusion, and diversity in the party.

Well, we know better. Thanks to Republicans like Arme and another Texas homophobe, Representative Tom DeLay, the GOP is not more "tolerant" of gays and lesbians. DeLay, unfortunately, is very likely to replace Arme as majority leader should the Republicans retain control of the House following the mid-term elections. That's reason enough for LGBT voters to actively support Democratic candidates in the fall; the party only needs a handful of seats to take control of the House.

We thought that in the aftermath of September 11, the country would come together. Nearly 10 months after the attacks, however, it's clear to us that Republicans like Dick Arme would rather retire under the cloud of homophobia rather than under the clear skies of equality. ▼



Editorial



A different take on PTW

by Daniel Hlad

It seems that I can't open the paper anymore without reading about the "evil Pallotta Teamworks" and its horrible and greedy corporate fundraising that's taking food out of the mouths of starving children (or whatever evil they are up to this week). I don't believe in blindly doling out accolades, but I do believe in debunking hurtful myths about well-intentioned people.

When the Black Coalition on AIDS (BCA) was approached last fall to participate in the California AIDS Ride we were skeptical. As an AIDS service organization we had concerns about attaching our name to the controversy surrounding this event. Despite this, and after meeting with event producers, we decided to put the politics aside and go ahead with it. After all, there was no annoying grant writing process or need to jump through hoops of fire to participate.

Over time, I got to know the people behind Pallotta Teamworks. I got to know them because they actually took the time to get to know BCA and the work we do. They were in regular contact with us, not to harp on us to raise money or register riders, but to see if we had suggestions for a press release or to ask if we'd like to have information at their "community area" at the stops on the ride (not to mention an e-mail I received about a link on our Web site that wasn't working). Never once have they trashed any "competition," but at every opportunity have risen above the entire controversy by doing the right thing: concentrating on making their own event the best

it could be under the circumstances.

Before long I couldn't help but put aside the perception that this was a group of thoughtless, careless, greedy people. What I did realize is that I've never worked with a better intentioned, more professional, and committed group of people who genuinely care about the causes this event supports. The assertion that they don't, or that the bottom line is their priority, is ludicrous and offensive.

I may very well be torn on founder Dan Pallotta's approach to fundraising; in fact, I am sure he's made bad and/or unorthodox decisions, but it doesn't take away from the fact that there are good people behind these events who clearly care and are working to make a difference.

What I can't understand is why there is such a reluctance to accept that a corporation can do good? Do you believe that a nonprofit can't make bad decisions, spend way too much money on administrative costs, or hire a bunch of people who don't care at all? Anyone who has worked in San Francisco AIDS service knows that's a bunch of bull. If you think there aren't greedy non-profits, I suggest you check some financials. You could cut the hypocrisy with a knife.

BCA isn't perfect, and we've had an admittedly difficult year. It's also been a difficult year for the people BCA serves. The black community, whose population, while dwindling to less than 4 percent in the city this year, still makes up more than 16 percent of AIDS cases. A population whose few remaining communities are burdened with

a range of social issues like poverty, homophobia, substance abuse, incarceration, and violence that continues to force black people's healthcare priorities (including HIV) to take a back seat. All of this at a time when black ASOs that are doing their best to provide culturally competent outreach and attempting to address these social issues that factor into increased rates of HIV/AIDS, are being forced to compete for funding in a world that still wants you to throw condoms at people or pretend that as long as people abstain from sex all will be well.

One of the lights through all of it this year for BCA was becoming involved in California AIDS Ride and getting to know the many faces behind the event. I realize that in the world of fundraising it's "about the money," but it has been a refreshing change to work with people who go beyond that and actually "get it." These are people who have demonstrated time and time again that they understand the importance of our work and the ability of our staff. We're not going to make a lot of money from this event, but I feel like we've gained a lot more than financial benefits. These are good people who deserve to be recognized for the work that they do and the spirit in which they do it. There are plenty of pledge events in this city that could learn a thing or two from the caring, human approach of Pallotta Teamworks. ▼

Pallotta Teamworks' California AIDS Ride departs Sunday, June 2 from San Francisco and will conclude in Los Angeles.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Condemns publication of letter

I was shocked and outraged to read David Nahmod's letter supporting attacks against Arab and Muslim people [Mailstrom, May 23]. It is commendable to print opinions which disagree with your editorials. But Mr. Nahmod's letter is hate speech and incitement to violence, which has no place in a queer community newspaper.

I doubt you would publish a letter expressing the opinion, "Some gay people commit crimes, therefore all gay people should be killed." So why would you publish the same sentiment about Arabs and Muslims? (And just for the record, not all Arabs are Muslims, and very few of either are suicide bombers, or any kind of bombers.) To publish a letter like that causes pain and fear to members of our community. The function of a community paper like the B.A.R. is to bring us together. Please think about that before you decide to give a platform to such violent, hateful sentiments again.

Kate Raphael
Berkeley, California

Statesmanship must replace artillery

I would like to take a moment to say that last week's sweeping expression of criticism of Islam and Arabs by David Alexander Nahmod of Hoboken, New Jersey, does not represent my own views and I hope, in the interest of peace in this world, that our community looks beyond the media headlines and knee-jerk reactions to our nation's tragedies.

While much of what Mr. Nahmod states seems true, that we have all witnessed the horrible incidents of violence and oppression by a single group of religious zealots, these events alone do not capture the complexity of what is going on in the Middle East nor does it represent in its entirety, the voice of all peoples of Middle Eastern descent here or abroad.

I would further like to point out that in our country's history, not really so long ago, similar declarations of hatred were made against another whole group of people during a time of war and those who did this felt equally justified in doing so. Japanese Americans were wrongfully accused of "conspiring with the enemy" and rounded up en masse to be detained for years, losing their property along with their rights as our government's military and political leaders launched its campaign against Japan following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Our world conflicts speak to the worst of humanity and while we may be inclined to rush to judgment we must refrain from making the horrific mistakes of the past. Statesmanship must replace artillery and the worst of times is when we need this applied most.

I urge your readers and I ask our community to remember our own history and consider the consequences when we fail to make significant distinctions in those who are our own neighbors.

Lenore Chinn, Former Member,
San Francisco Human Rights Commission

Protests letter's publication

I am writing to protest your publication of the anti-Islamic letter by David Alexander Nahmod of Hoboken, New Jersey, in your publication.

I am shocked that Mr. Nahmod compares Muslims to the Nazis, when Israel has been systematically killing its civilian population for years. I am more shocked that you have published such a letter.

Please do not allow your paper to be an instrument of Zionist propaganda.

A. Sheikh
San Jose, California

Open about ignorance

I would like to thank the B.A.R. for printing David Alexander Nahmod's letter titled, "Disagrees with Islam" (May 23). I think it is very important for these people to be as open about their ignorance and prejudice as possible, mostly so that we are not lulled into any delusions about how vulgar, misinformed, and emotionally disabled people like Mr. Nahmod really are. I think the B.A.R. unfortunately should be criticized for assigning the title of the letter simply as "Disagrees with Islam," when in fact Mr. Nahmod not only "disagrees" with Islam but he indirectly calls for the murder of Arabic and Muslim people.

Mr. Nahmod isn't very original, as his attack could've been plagiarized from now-dead Dutch neo-fascist Pim Fortuyn, who rose to power on a wave of xenophobia and racism. Mr. Nahmod attempts to demonize not only Arabs, but Muslims as well, all under the pretext that they are so discriminatory and brutal to women and gays, yet in a perverse leap of logic goes on to question why anyone would be upset over graffiti that urges us to "kill Arabs." This is as if Mr. Nahmod is taking one step forward and two steps backward. Need I remind Mr. Nahmod that lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender people are also Arabic and/or Muslim, who have a much different outlook on themselves and their culture than the biased view Mr. Nahmod gets from skimming the covers of *Newsweek*.

Mr. Nahmod's idea of who deserves "rights" seems

to be only the rights of a select few. I have news for you, Mr. Nahmod: No one is free until everyone is free. Freedom, like wildlife, doesn't function or thrive in corridors scattered about. And in this case, freedom for us is cheapened when the lives of Arabs and Palestinians are oppressed under the boot of American business interests and the corrupt regimes they control.

Mr. Nahmod can dutifully repeat misinformation and point out examples of injustice in the Muslim/Arab world all he wants, all the while failing to mention that God-fearing America executes minors, women, and the mentally ill and "donates" their children to die in wars or in prison, but it won't change the fact that our liberation - queer liberation - is bound to and dependent on the liberation of all oppressed peoples, including Arabs and Muslims. Mr. Nahmod, like so many, doesn't understand or realize that our movement for liberation seeks to liberate love, for love is at the very heart of freedom, yet how can you do so while creating and maintaining a culture of fear and separation, such as the one Mr. Nahmod puts forward?

I think when you come back to our city, Mr. Nahmod, you will be quite surprised how fundamentally and diametrically opposed we as a community are to your mission of fear-mongering and scapegoating.

Kevin Weaver
San Francisco

Doesn't need his help

David Alexander Nahmod of Hoboken, New Jersey, has carelessly couched his anti-Muslim bigotry in a defense of women and gays. As a gay activist in Toronto, Canada, I can tell David that I don't need his help.

I lost four colleagues in the World Trade Center from my days working in New York and New Jersey.

Did people all over the world cheer on 9-11 when they saw two symbols of imperialism and global corporate capitalism destroyed? Many did, ignoring briefly the loss of innocent life. But who can blame them? The rain of fire and steel that has fallen upon the innocent villagers in Afghanistan since 9-11 has far too many historical precedents; Vietnam, Cambodia, the U.S.-backed massacre of a million people in Indonesia, and the current occupation of Palestine list just a few interventions of U.S. state terror against the people of the south. Billions of the Earth's people despise America's political and economic enslavement of their societies. Does David Nahmod look on in satisfaction at the bombs falling on Afghanistan? He is obviously a hypocrite and a racist.

Who was really surprised at what happened on 9-11? Apparently not Mr. Bush, whose father, after all, was Osama senior's business partner. Apparently not the U.S. government, which after all, trained al Qaeda operatives in the 1980s and early 1990s. If Mr. Nahmod is looking for the Axis of Evil, he should start in Washington, Houston, and Riyadh.

What is the biggest threat to women and gays today? It is not Islam, and let us not forget the many flavors of Islam, political or otherwise. For much of Islamic history, homosexuality was celebrated. Read the poetry of Rumi. This is the culture that gave higher maths and Greek philosophy back to Europe, after Europe's thousand year descent into religious fundamentalism. Some members of the Republican Party seem to want to go back to those "good ol' days." Does David Nahmod want to join them there?

No, the biggest threat to the rights of gays and women today are U.S. bombs. It is the militarist and racist backlash being whipped up by the U.S. government and other governments around the world. The Canadian government is also no friend of ours. And it's a backlash that only serves the interests of the rich oil interests who apparently have the run of the White House thanks to that stolen election in Florida. Did someone say that America was a democracy? The Taliban execute gays and veil women. America blows them up from a distance and invokes the name of God.

What government paid for the arms for the Afghan Mujahedeen? Who gave them the stinger missiles? Who funded Osama bin Laden? Who made many of the land mines which infest that poor nation? Who writes the checks for the Saudi regime, for the Egyptian government, which both execute gays? The U.S. government. Why? For oil, something for which people will do just about anything. Just ask the folks in Enron's accounting department what can be done for oil and profits. But it gets worse.

There are thousands of people in INS detention since 9-11. They have no access to lawyers or to judges. Overwhelmingly these are people of color, targeted purely because of where they come from. These people are not terrorists. They are our brothers and sisters.

This year in Toronto, there will be a massive social justice contingent in the annual Pride Parade. I'm proud to be helping to organize it. It will include labor, social activists just returned from protesting the G-8 summit in Kananaskis, Alberta; students; and people of color and it will be led by a group of queer Muslims. When I proudly march in that contingent, I

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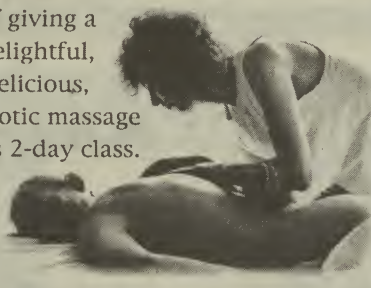
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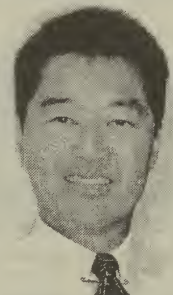
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will think of the words of David Alexander Nahmod, and laugh at the shallow cesspool of petty ignorance that spawned them.

Stephen James Kerr
Toronto, Canada

Full of ignorance

David Alexander Nahmod's letter "Disagrees with Islam" is so full of ignorance, I am unsure of which issues to address. First, if he paid attention beyond mainstream media, the small handful of Arabs were not the only ones cheering. Second, U.S. policies in the Middle East are hardly ones to cheer for – so any resentment Arabs may have toward America is not surprising, nor unwarranted. Third, "thousands" of Arab parents have not offered to "donate" their children for suicide bombings – where does he get that number? As a reminder for David, "Islam" is a religion, not a person. "It" doesn't target gays for execution – homophobes target gays under the guise of Islam. There are many of us who are queer, Muslim, and out – in the queer and Muslim communities – and we are still alive. Another reminder, Muslim and Arab are not the same thing – and equating them as simultaneous identities further shows his ignorance.

And it is untrue that in Arab countries women are not allowed to read, write, and drive a car – Saudi Arabia is the only one in which women can't drive. What happened in Saudi Arabia recently with the three little girls was despicable, and lesbians are not the only ones that need to "take note." This was a human rights violation that was condemned by Arabs, women, lesbians, Muslims, and all human rights activists. To make it a lesbian issue is ridiculous.

Sweeping statements like Arabs are "determined to kill everyone they disagree with" are so insane, they are almost impossible to respond to – David's letter is full off the hate he condemns so much. It's not only stupid, it's offensive, to classify a whole group of people based on actions of a group of them – I don't hate Catholics because of the pope's views on homosexuality, I don't hate white people because of the KKK, and I don't hate Jews because of the existence of Israeli apartheid.

Lina Baroudi
Southwest Asian/North African Bay Area Queers
San Francisco

Consider collateral issues

Thank you for the column in your May 16 issue by Dale Carpenter regarding the politics and murder of Pim Fortuyn in the Netherlands ["Why a dead Dutch politician matters"]. I am sure all three of us in the politically conservative gay community were deeply disturbed by his assassination. The United States has a great need for a politician who will speak the truth about unlimited immigration of people who have absolutely no respect for our language, values, culture, or traditions.

But the most important part of the article was the truth regarding the Islamic religion. With all this talk about "Palestinian rights" we must never forget that this group is willingly led by people who would take great joy in killing every queer on Earth, in the name of "Allah." When I read five pages later the article titled "Pro-Palestine lesbian to speak at Milk Club dinner," I was reminded how blindly many in the gay community will follow any liberal cause and never bother to consider any collateral issues.

I can hear others now exclaiming, "But there are many nice Palestinians." I am sure there probably are. But we must always look at the big picture in any political issue. Just because a group claims to be oppressed does not mean they should not be oppressed.

Of course the lesbian mentioned above is none other than Kate Raphael, who recently made a trip to Palestine. For Miss Raphael's next trip I would like to suggest she take a tour of the wax museums of the world. I am sure somewhere she could find a statue of Adolf Hitler, and she would enjoy kissing its ass.

Tom McCloskey
Burlingame, California

Refugees treated as pawns

In response to Steven Karpas's letter, "People not pawns" (Mailstrom, May 16), I re-read David Goldstein's letter regarding gay support for Israel and contrary to Mr. Karpas's innuendo, I do not think that Mr. Goldstein is suggesting we "sell out the rights of others" so long as we get our own.

But rather, Mr. Goldstein was merely suggesting that in a society such as Israel, it's important to see the clear distinction between civil rights in the democratic Jewish state than those in other countries in the Middle East. So Mr. Karpas, your conscience can rest easy in that regard. But I am glad that you brought up the issue of people being treated as pawns, because that is precisely what the Arab world, in particular the Palestinian leadership, has regarded the Palestinian refugees. Pawns.

Had the Arab world accepted the 1947 partition plan under U.N. Resolution 181, not a single Palestin-

ian would have become a refugee. An independent Arab state would now exist beside Israel. Had the Arab world not gone to war in 1948, a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Galilee, and the Negev desert would be celebrating the 54th anniversary of its independence.

Had the Arab world accepted the findings of the Peel Commission of 1937 to partition Palestine into an Arab and Jewish state, an independent Arab state and Jewish state would exist. Had the Arab world agreed in 1937 with the British White Paper that called for the establishment of an Arab state in Palestine by 1949, an independent Arab state would now exist. Each time with partition, the Palestinians were given a state and the opportunity for self-determination. Each time, rejection by the Arab world.

The Arab world exploits the Palestinians for their own political purposes and gain. From 1948 to 1967, Egypt controlled Gaza and Jordan controlled the West Bank. During those 19 years, absolutely no effort was made by either the Jordanian or Egyptian governments to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people, nor any effort made to establish an independent Palestinian state.

Demographic figures in 1948 indicated ample room for Palestinian refugee re-settlement existed in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Libya, and yet each Arab country rejected Palestinian entry and any form of citizenship.

Today the exploitation of the Palestinian people continues through the corrupt leadership of Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority. Arafat is the embodiment of racism, rejectionism, non-compromising, and non-negotiable politics. Benny Morris, a Middle East history professor at Ben-Gurion University in Israel and author of *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem*, stated in a February 2002 article entitled, "Peace? No Chance," "[T]hat while critics of Israel have latched on to my findings that highlighted Israeli responsibility while ignoring the fact that the Palestinian refugee problem was a direct consequence of the 1948 war that the Palestinians-and, in their wake, the surrounding Arab states launched."

Additional insights into Benny Morris's article and "conversion" so to speak, can be found on the Web site, www.gamala.org. I urge all those interested in a balanced perspective regarding the refugee problem take the time to read this article that accurately reflects how the Palestinian people have indeed been treated like pawns by the Arab world and the Palestinian leadership and whether or not the Palestinian leadership and Arab world will say that Zionism is a legitimate national liberation movement, just like the Palestinian's cause for national liberation and self-determination.

Mikeal Levi
San Francisco

Expensive meals?

Is it just me or does 32 bucks sound like a lot to pay for dinner? According to recent article announcing layoffs at Project Open Hand ["Layoffs hit Project Open Hand," May 2], this fiscal budget is \$9 million to deliver a total of 280,000 meals. That equates to \$31.58 per meal. Of course, Mr. Nolan may think that is reasonable but with a salary of \$115,000 he can well afford it. Ruth Brinker did much better on less!

Jay A. Abbott
San Francisco

Did stupidity win?

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, popular as he was, still couldn't convince reluctant Americans to enter World War II. (After all, they had entered World War I in a mood of idealism, only to be disgusted, after winning, by the cynicism of their allies.) Then a Japanese fleet, including aircraft carriers, starting steaming toward Hawaii. Roosevelt could have saved most of the U.S. Pacific Fleet by dispersing ships across the open sea. Instead he ignored warnings, and carelessly left them concentrated in Pearl Harbor, forming an easy target. After the successful Japanese attack, Americans suddenly became quite eager to enter a war they had shunned a few days earlier.

Surprise! A negligent president just "accidentally" got what he needed. Sometimes, sloth can win.

Six decades later, an unpopular new president, appointed by the Supreme Court, needed a mandate to govern. A slim majority had voted against him, and merely tolerated the judicial coup in order to avoid chaos. Then, in August 2001, he ignored warnings, and carelessly neglected to protect airlines. (Indeed, the Twin Towers plan was known as early as 1996, according to www.fromthewilderness.com and Agence France Presse, www.copvica.com.)

After 9-11, the nation simply had to rally around him. As LBJ would have joked, he was "the only president you've got."

Did a negligent president again accidentally get what he needed? Did stupidity win? Or did "the intelligence community" get what "it" wanted?

Tortuga Bi Liberty
San Francisco
Kerwin Kay
New York City

Davis-Simon race still up for grabs?

by Wayne Friday

A memo recently went out from the Davis for re-election headquarters to supportive labor unions announcing the new "Deputy Political Director for Rapid Response," whose main task is to "keep the heat on the Simon campaign from now until November."

The memo listed no fewer than 10 bullet points to be used against the Simon campaign, such as: "Voting and paying taxes are two things every citizen should do; it appears that Mr. Simon doesn't do either, and he wants our vote?" That's a clear reference to the fact that **Bill Simon** has admitted that he has rarely voted since moving to California 10 years ago and to the fact that he won't release his personal income tax information. No

doubt about it, with the weekly revelations coming out of Sacramento about Governor **Gray Davis's** embarrassing fundraising tactics – legal, but embarrassing. (No, I don't believe the rumor Davis actually has a tip jar on his desk.) Add to that the fact that a \$23 billion budget deficit has forced the governor to renege on an election-year pledge not to raise taxes. Despite this, most political observers still feel that Davis still is the favorite to win re-election in November, if only because the middle-of-the-road voters who decide most state elections still find Simon to be too far to the right on the major issues – particularly a woman's right to choose – to get elected governor.

Many Californians, unhappy with both Simon and Davis, will likely take the "lesser-of-the-two" choice and still vote for the more liberal Davis in November. Simon, however, knows that he is behind the political eight-ball on the abortion issue and in a state where roughly two out of three voters support abortion rights, Davis has so far successfully used the issue to cast Simon as being too far out of step with the California mainstream. Sensing that it is the one issue that is most likely to cost him the election, Simon last week appeared in front of 1,200 women at a breakfast forum of the Women's Town Hall, a coalition of women's groups in Los Angeles, and promised that he would appoint both pro-life and pro-choice judges to the bench if he were elected.

"I am pro-life but I understand that not everyone agrees with me on this subject," Simon told his female audience.

Fully aware that he was speaking to a crowd that was overwhelmingly pro-choice, Simon attempted to make political inroads by saying, "A governor does not and should not have the power to pick and choose the laws that will be enforced and the rights that will be recognized," and promised that if he were elected, he would uphold all legal and constitutional "protections of reproductive freedom."

Simon further said, "I will uphold the law and will not become an activist governor when it comes to abortion." But he declined to say whether he would sign any legislation to curb abor-

tion rights.

Laurie Beijen, who heads the California chapter of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League's political committee, remained suspicious about Simon on the issue however, recalling that former Republican Governor **George Deukmejian**, also a foe of abortion rights, slashed spending on the state Office of Family Planning. Beijen said the league, which has already endorsed Davis for re-election, does not trust Simon to protect abortion rights.

"Upholding the law is all well and good, but is he going to advocate for making the law stronger, or will he unravel the gains we've made?" she asked. "My guess is that Bill Simon would sign laws that were in line with his personal views,"

Beijen added.

Davis had been scheduled to address the same women's forum but backed out and sent his regrets when a carpenter's union threw up a picket line around the host hotel. "Governor Davis doesn't cross picket lines," said **Gabriel Sanchez**, a Davis campaign spokesperson.

Did Simon's open pitch to the influential women's group help him with the pro-choice Democratic and Republican voters of California? That remains to be seen, but a Davis spokeswoman sent a message to the group pointing to seven bills that the governor has signed to enhance abortion rights. She further cited endorsements of Davis by Planned Parenthood and the abortion rights league and pointed out that Simon was recently endorsed by the California branch of the National Right to Life group. "We'll let those endorsements speak for themselves," the Davis spokesperson said.

It should be noted that national Republicans don't seem to be overly enthusiastic about Simon's chances of unseating Davis in November. Representative **Tom Davis** (R-Virginia), who heads the National Republican Congressional Committee, said recently on CNN, with a decided lack of enthusiasm, that, "Gray Davis is in bad shape in terms of his personal popularity and California voters seem to want a change, but whether Simon's the guy to do it or not, well..."

The Oracle scandal, his dubious fundraising tactics, the fact that the state is facing a record deficit, along with Davis having the personality of a wet rag – none of it will likely really matter. Davis long ago mastered the calculus of California's election year politics, which rewards politicians with socially liberal yet fiscally conservative views. This is indeed still Davis's election to lose, and with six months until the general election, time is still on his side. True, this voter has never been a big fan of Davis, but he would still be a better choice for all of us than the anti-choice, anti-gay, right-wing Simon.

Politics and people

Glad I didn't say that: (but, the *Los Angeles Times* did): "California Democratic Senator **Barbara Boxer**, who maxes out about 5

feet tall, was 'particularly upset' that Enron used the name 'Get Shorty' for one of its schemes to try to manipulate energy prices in California."

California Secretary of State **Bill Jones**, who lost out to Bill Simon in the March GOP primary, hasn't been particularly enthusiastic about supporting the Simon for Governor effort, but Simon has hired both **Rod Lapsley**, a top aide in the Jones effort, as well as Jones's daughter, **Andrea**, to try to help round up some moderate voters for November. Simon can read, of course, and the recent Field Poll shows that California voters still believe a woman should be allowed to have an abortion if she desires it in the first trimester by a whopping margin of 63 percent to 28 percent.

One of Capitol Hill's good guys, **Jim Hock**, has left his top job as press secretary to Senator **Dianne Feinstein** to write a book and spend time with his new 3-month-old son, **John Connor Hock**.

Most political observers (in both parties) privately predict that Assemblyman **Kevin Shelley** (D) will beat out former Assemblyman **Keith Olberg** (R-Victorville) to become the next California secretary of state in November.

Got a friend or relative in Long Beach? Get on the phone – now – and remind them to vote Tuesday (June 4) for **Dan Baker**, a highly qualified, openly gay candidate for mayor.

City Attorney **Dennis Herrera** and Supervisor (Assemblymember-to-be) **Mark Leno** will host a reception honoring Assemblyman **Dario Frommer** (Los Feliz), the new Democratic chair of the Assembly Health Committee, on Thursday, June 13 (5:30-8 p.m.) at San Francisco Bar Pilots, Pier 9, East End (\$150; 818-502-1490 for info).

According to info from the California Department of Finance's Demographic Research Unit, San Francisco is now the state's fourth largest city with a population of 793,600 (behind L.A., San Diego, and, yes, San Jose).

In New York, a spokeswoman for Senator **Hillary Rodham Clinton** (D-New York) was trying last week to downplay a report that some Democratic power brokers, including her husband, were suggesting she might be a good candidate for vice president in 2004. The *New York Daily News* said that when asked about the chance his wife might run for president in 2004, former President **Bill Clinton's** response was: "I think she'd make a better vice presidential candidate."

Meanwhile, the Republican National Committee this week announced that its 2004 national convention would take place August 30-September 2; the Democratic Party officials then said they might follow suit, raising the unprecedented prospect of dueling prime-time political spectacles; neither party has chosen the site city of their conventions yet.

Second lady **Lynne Cheney**, usually reluctant to discuss her openly gay daughter in public, did say on CNN's *Larry King Live* the other night that daughter **Mary**

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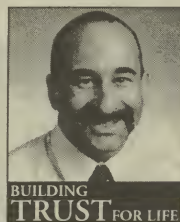
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Trans-rights dominoes continue to fall

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

These are heady times to be a transgender activist.

Only two columns ago, I reported on transgender rights victories in New York City; Tacoma, Washington; and Allentown, Pennsylvania. Now, one month later, I find myself with two more cities to add to this rapidly growing list.

Most recent is a win in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This is a big victory, as a large U.S. city will explicitly include protections for transgendered people. As has become the standard in these rights victories, the Philadelphia City Council passed the legislation by a vote of 15 to 2 – in spite of a high-profile editorial in the *Philadelphia Daily News* against the bill.

There must be something in the water in Pennsylvania, too. This is the third transgender rights win this year for the state, and the state's sixth jurisdiction to protect transgendered citizens.

Important, too, is a win in Dallas, Texas. This caught many off guard. While the language of this ordinance is a little different from the others – no “gender identity and expression” language – it too

is a boon to the community. At the least, this is a break from the norm for a Texas location. Like the others, this passed overwhelmingly, 13 to 2 in favor of civil rights.

When we look at all these recent wins, we see some interesting things.

First off, six jurisdictions have passed the ordinances in only two and a half months. This is quite a bit of activity in a very short time span. I've also heard of some other locations that are quickly working to get the ordinances on the table, which could well mean that this trend will continue.

Transmissions

Further, when these ordinances were voted on, the victories were by a whopping majority in each case. None of these were close calls. If you total up all the votes in each victory, it's 92 for, and a paltry 13 votes against.

There are now more than 40 localities that protect transgender citizens, and two states – Minnesota and Rhode Island – that value their transgender citizens enough to enact statewide legal protections. That number is set to grow, and I expect that there will be a couple more major cities – and another state – to mention in this column in only a handful of months.

The dominoes are falling, and it can be very hard to stop them. Not that there aren't those who are willing to try.

A number of conservative groups have already started to challenge these victories, and are girding up for future challenges. Hot on the heels of these wins, the Concerned Women of America have made sure to start mobilizing people against transgender rights, while the Traditional Values Coalition has already produced its four-page “special report” explaining the “bizarre agenda” of the “militant transgenders.”

Oh, that agenda? Nothing less than the “destabilization of the categories of sex and gender.” I think those categories are already plenty unstable in their nature.

Nearly 30 years ago, as homosexual civil rights battles were in full swing, foes latched onto organizations like NAMBLA in an attempt to paint all gays and lesbians as pedophiles. Certainly, these same tactics are still in use today – just look at the Catholic

Church scandal to see how ingrained the assumption is that gay equals pedophile.

I bring this up only because the foes of the transgendered rights movement have begun to equate sexual predators with the transgendered, by focusing on the issue of bathroom use by transgendered people.

Apparently they assume that anyone who is presenting as a gender different from the one they were born in – and are using a restroom that best matches their presentation at the time – must obviously be doing so for some nefarious and unseemly purpose. Never mind that there's little proof that such has happened in places where transgender rights have already been approved: the argument is a paper tiger.

It's not just the likes of Lou Sheldon who are talking about transgendered people and their bathroom habits. Congressman Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) has cited the same issue in objecting to transgendered rights being included in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Of course, Frank was not spreading the scare tactics of the Traditional Values Coalition when he mentioned this, but merely trying to be pragmatic in his approach to getting ENDA passed.

This brings up an odd thing. The common wisdom has been that transgendered people are to be the “sacrificial lambs” when it comes to gaining rights for more mainstream gays and lesbians, because transgender rights are simply too unusual for most to support. Yet at the same time, one can point to these recent dominoes that have fallen – big ones, like New York City and Philadelphia, for example – and see rights ordinances that passed by enormous margins.

Perhaps these recent victories point to the need to reevaluate ENDA, in light of these wins and the overwhelming support they received. Maybe including transgendered people is not the political liability that Congressman Frank seems to believe.

If it is good enough for Philadelphia, San Francisco, New York City, Tacoma, Allentown, Rhode Island, Seattle, West Hollywood, Dallas, New Orleans, Minnesota, Portland, and many others – then why not the country?

It's a question I'd love to have answered. ▼

TG lawsuit

◀ page 1

station, according to the suit, Burke was strip searched by females, chided for crying over his injuries, and taunted for his gender identity when officers threw a blue dress into his holding cell.

At one point, the suit alleges, an officer told Burke they needed to “see what he had” in order to place him in a proper cell, and after the strip search, the officer commented, “That is the biggest clit I have ever seen.”

Burke was then transferred to the San Francisco County Jail at 850 Bryant Street where he was placed into a holding cell with women. His injuries from the police beating were allegedly not given medical attention, and he developed an infection, prompt-

ing him to seek treatment at San Francisco General Hospital.

City Attorney Dennis Herrera's office had no comment as they have not yet been served with the lawsuit. Herrera, a longtime friend to the transgender community, will have the responsibility of defending the city against the lawsuit.

Burke's attorney, Waukeen McCoy, said he hopes that the suit will bring visibility to the lack of protections for transgender people, particularly within the prison and jail systems.

“The public should be aware of what is taking place with the Police Department's handling of transgender individuals,” said McCoy. “We want to make the public aware of the excessive use of force and show what a transgender person goes through at the time of an arrest, which is not like what everyone else suffers.” ▼

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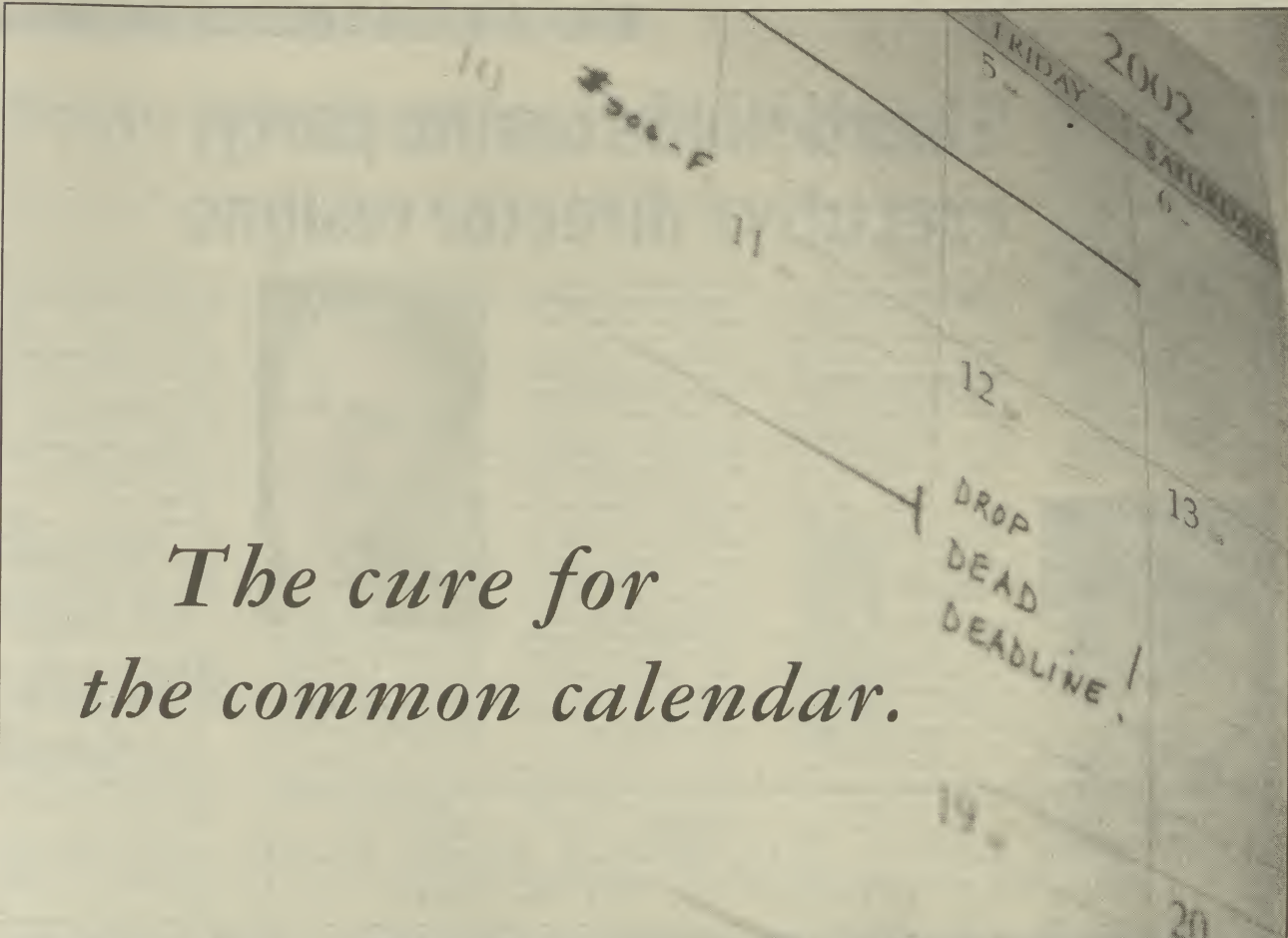
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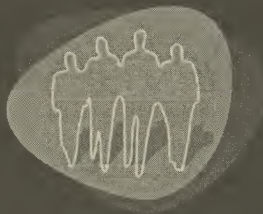




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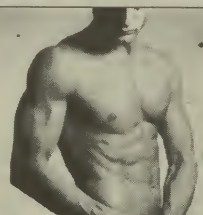
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Shanti holds casino party; executive director resigns

By Matthew S. Bajko

Shanti's sixth annual Casino Party and Art Auction Friday night will be Bob Rybicki's last as the agency's executive director. After five years heading the nonprofit HIV/AIDS agency, Rybicki is resigning his post.

Rybicki has been hired as the executive director at Youth and Family Assistance in San Mateo County. His resignation from Shanti will be effective June 30 so he can move on to his new job later this summer.

His colleagues at Shanti said he will be sorely missed.

"It's been a pleasure to have worked closely with Bob during his tenure at Shanti, a time when the organization has grown dramatically," said Shanti founder and current board chair Charles Garfield. "He is an extraordinary, talented leader who has helped position Shanti and its programs solidly for continued service to our clients both locally and nationally."

Since Rybicki's tenure began in 1997, Shanti's budget has tripled and its staff has grown to more than 50. Under Rybicki's leadership, Shanti developed a National Training Institute for volunteer managers, launched new HIV/AIDS programs such as

L.I.F.E., expanded its transportation program and created a breast cancer support services program for women in treatment.

"We have become an agency of national significance serving clients around the United States. As such, the executive director needs to spend a significant amount of time traveling around the country," said Rybicki. "After five years, I look forward to more time here in San Francisco."

At his new job with Youth and Family Assistance, Rybicki will oversee services for youth and families in high-risk situations within San Mateo County. The agency provides youth development, homeless and runaway youth services, substance abuse treatment and education, violence and abuse prevention and family support. It serves more than 65,000 people each year.

The day he accepted his job with Shanti in 1997, Rybicki said his new agency had called him for an interview. He said he is excited to switch his focus from adults to working with children.

"I think the piece I really like about it is working with youth and families. It is a little different



Shanti's Bob Rybicki is leaving the organization at the end of June.

angle than what we have here with AIDS and almost always working with adults," he said.

Those who have worked with Rybicki at Shanti said while they are happy for him, his resignation is a loss for the agency.

"I am very, very sad to see Bob go. But it is wonderful he is able to go on to a new agency as well," said Scott Elshans, Shanti's cur-

rent deputy executive director who has been named interim executive director.

Shanti is in the process of forming a search committee to recruit a new executive director. Rybicki said the greatest challenge facing his successor will be keeping the agency fiscally afloat.

"The new challenge that faces any executive director is fundraising in this environment. It's a tough one," he said.

To help assure this weekend's annual fundraiser is a success, Shanti has teamed with the Men's Associated Exchange (MAX) Fifth Friday event. The MAX events aim to combine fundraising efforts with the group's party efforts.

"We are expecting with the MAX men showing up 350 to 400 gamblers," predicted Rybicki.

The Casino Party and Art Auction takes place from 6 to 10:30 p.m. Friday, May 31 at the Palace Hotel, 2 New Montgomery Street. A \$20 donation includes one casino chip for play.

For more information visit the event Web site at www.shanti.org/casino.html or call (415) 674-4764. ▼

Lesbian teacher wins discrimination suit

by Matthew S. Bajko

A Southern California school district has agreed to pay more than \$140,000 to a lesbian teacher who alleged she was denied a promotion and harassed

for being gay.

As part of the settlement, the Oceanside Unified School District in San Diego County also agreed to provide annual sensitivity training to its employees on issues of sexual orientation discrimination.

The teacher, Dawn Murray, was an award-winning high school biology teacher who was hired in 1983. Murray said in her case that she suffered severe harassment that began when her coworkers learned she is gay.

Although she had won state and national teaching awards, Murray was denied a promotion by district officials. She became the target of vicious anti-gay remarks, false rumors, and obscene graffiti that was painted repeatedly outside her classroom.

Instead of responding to the attacks, officials at Oceanside ignored the abuse and threatened disciplinary action against Murray when she complained. Murray filed her discrimination case seven years ago.

"This lawsuit shows other school districts that if they respond to harassment in an inappropriate way, we will stand up, the laws will protect us, and they will be made to stop," Murray said Thursday, May 23 after learning the district had settled her case.

According to a 2002 report by the National Education Association Task Force on Sexual Orientation, discrimination against school employees on the basis of sexual orientation is commonplace. The NEA report found such discrimination is not only harmful to the affected employees, but to students as well.

According to the report, a discriminatory environment may make employees reluctant to intervene on behalf of victimized students, or to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender students. In addition, the NEA concluded that schools that practice employment discrimination send

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June 5, 2002

7 pm

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On June 5, 2002, Miss and Mr. Gay Safe Latino will be celebrating 11 years of successful performances providing HIV prevention and education to the Latino Gay/Bisexual/Transgender community of San Francisco.

Miss and Mr. Gay Safe Latino is a competition that combines talent and entertainment with HIV/AIDS prevention and education. The winners of this event represent the Latino Gay/Bisexual/Transgender community of San Francisco for the following year. This year, the event will be held June 5th at 7 PM at the Palace of Fine Arts Theater at 3301 Lyon Street in San Francisco.

11 Years of Miss and Mr. Gay Safe Latino

In June of 1991, the Latino AIDS Education and Prevention Team of Instituto Familiar de la Raza, Inc. organized the first Miss and Mr. Gay Safe Latino Competition at the Mission District Bar, Esta Noche. Signs were done by hand with crayons and markers over butcher paper, decorations were balloons and confetti. Promotion was only by word of mouth. That night the house was full; participants showed their talent and knowledge of HIV/AIDS Prevention; the public received condoms, lubricants and educational materials; and dancing followed.

The following years the event continued at Esta Noche Bar, however it was clear that the event needed a larger venue as it was growing in popularity and success. In 1995, Miss and Mr. Latino Gay Safe moved to Mission Cultural Center. Participants and the community were thrilled with the new location - it was more than a bigger space, it was the fact that the event will be going into a more public, mainstream and cultural place. It was the symbol of the recognition of the talent and struggle of the Latino Gay/Bisexual/Transgender community inside the Latino community at large.

The event became part of QUELACO (Queer Latino/Latina Arts Coalition) when this organization began organizing a yearly month long Latino Queer Festival in conjunction with Gay Pride Celebrations.

In 2000, the event took place for the last time in the Mission Cultural Center. One year later the event was held at Brava Theater on 24th Street. Without a doubt, this was the best event ever since its beginnings. Participants demonstrated extraordinary talent, knowledge and commitment. Other community organizations, such as Proyecto contra SIDA por Vida, Aguilas, Mission Neighborhood Health Center and CAPS, joined the event as sponsors.

Since 1991, winners of the event have represented Instituto Familiar de la Raza in the Gay Parade. This event changed the old days of AIDS teaching. No more dry and lecturing presentations - the community took it in its hands the dissemination of the HIV prevention message in a creative and festive way fostering gay/bisexual/transgender pride and bridges with the rest of the community.

Miss and Mr. Gay Safe Latino 2002

This year Miss and Mr. Gay Safe Latino 2002 will be held at the Palace of Fine Arts Theater, which is one of the most famous theaters in the city and a true San Franciscan landmark. Miss and Mr. Gay Safe Latino has gone a long way since we began on 16th and Mission. We are pleased, and very proud to invite you to our 11th celebration this June 5th at 7 PM at the Palace of Fine Arts Theater (3301 Lyon Street, San Francisco). Buses will be available from Instituto Familiar de la Raza's building (2919 Mission Street between 25th and 26th St.) at 6:00 PM to take people to the event.

Let the fantasy begin! Do not miss it!

For more information call Gustavo Cravioto at (415) 647-4141.

Pride hits Northern California

Santa Cruz event this weekend; Monterey festival June 15

by Matthew S. Bajko

Pride month officially begins this weekend in Santa Cruz with the first of several celebrations around the Bay Area in June.

This Saturday, June 1 marks the 10th annual Santa Cruz Dyke March. The march, dubbed this year "Be the Bomb, Launch Your Heart" takes place from 4 to 7

p.m. at the Compass Rose in front of the downtown post office at Front and Water streets.

Sunday, June 2 the seaside city along Highway 1 celebrates its 28th annual Pride Parade and festival. This year's theme is "Pride=Action." Cheer San Francisco will be the first contingent to head down Pacific Avenue to kick off the Santa Cruz Pride Parade and Festival. The group expects to have its largest squad in its history for the day's events.

The Pride march will gather at Cathcart & Pacific in downtown Santa Cruz at 10 a.m. and will step off at 11 a.m., led by Grand Marshal state Assemblyman Fred Keeley (D-Boulder Creek). Bands, floats, musical, and marching groups from the Bay Area and beyond are also expected to participate.

The parade route ends in San Lorenzo Park on Ocean and Water streets, where a Pride rally and festival will begin at noon and last

until 5 p.m. Elected officials and community members will speak, and entertainment will include hip-hop band Deep-Dickollective, Australian duo The Velvet Janes, country swing band Saddle Up & Boogie, Spirit Drumz Uprising, Jennifer Daniels, local poet and performance artist Gabriel, Cheer San Francisco, and more.

At 1 and 2 p.m., local attorney Margaret Leonard and paralegal Clare Sheils will lead informational seminars on the pros and cons of registering as domestic partners, and notaries public will be staffing a domestic partner registration booth throughout the day. Couples planning to register their partnerships are encouraged to bring legal identification. At 3 p.m. there will be an interdenominational commitment ceremony.

For more information on Santa Cruz Pride, e-mail info@santacruzpride.org or call (831) 761-9652.

Monterey Pride soon

Following Santa Cruz Pride comes the Monterey Pride Festival on Saturday, June 15. The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Monterey County Fairgrounds.

Billed as a day in the park, the event will feature booths and entertainment. For more information, visit the Pride of Monterey County Web site at www.montereypride.org.



The always popular Cheer-San Francisco at last year's Santa Cruz Pride Parade.

Supes fight to save DPH funds

by Joe Dignan

On the eve of unveiling his 2002-2003 budget on June 4, three San Francisco supervisors are urging Mayor Willie Brown to maintain current levels of funding for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs at the Department of Public Health.

The programs are threatened by potential general fund budget cuts at DPH; a reduction, by \$2.2 million, in San Francisco's Ryan White CARE Act appropriation by the Bush administration; as well as a reduction in state subsidies on which DPH heavily depends.

"To cut community-based programming and access to health care would be such a monumental step backwards - I believe folks would die," said Supervisor Chris Daly, one of the authors, along with Supervisors Mark Leno and Tom Ammiano, of a letter asking the mayor to retain current HIV/AIDS funding.

Daly has also authored a resolution from the board urging the mayor to retain current levels of funding for the entire DPH. It passed 6-5 at Tuesday's board meeting.

"To the extent that the board gives favoritism to any city department, they had better be prepared to cut somewhere else," Brown said after the board vote.

In Brown's first attempt to produce a balanced budget in lean times, he directed city department heads to find 10 percent cuts in their budgets. At DPH, through which most general fund HIV/AIDS funding is channeled, that translates to about \$30 million.

On the chopping block are drop-in programs and volunteer coordination at Shanti, counseling services at AIDS Health Project and money for San Francisco AIDS Foundation's housing subsidy program and AIDS hotline, for a total of about \$1.1 million.

The proposed cuts at Shanti would eliminate about \$400,000 worth of programs. Likely to be lost would be a Spanish-language care coordination program and a drop-in center that, according to Bob Rybicki, Shanti's director, works with about 80 clients per day.

"When you add up all the

page 19 ►

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Dance the night away at the 2nd Annual Geezers' Ball at Harry Denton's Starlight Room from 4pm to 7pm on June 23, 2002! Swing to the sounds of Big Band, disco, musica latina, and today's hits! Come alone or bring friends. Party dress encouraged.

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Killer of gay deaf student found guilty

by Bob Roehr

The deaf gay community was in a state of shock when Eric Plunkett was found bludgeoned to death in his dorm room on the campus of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. on September 28, 2000. The 19-year-old freshman was secretary of the Lambda Society, the gay and lesbian group on the campus of the nation's only university for the deaf and severely hearing impaired.

"We are fearful. This happened on campus and it could happen again," Thomas Green, president of Lambda, said at the time of the murder. He had observed one presumably straight male student saying in sign language, "Good, one less fag," and his friend nodding in agreement.

Police soon arrested a fellow freshman, but released him before formal charges were filed. The student left Gallaudet when university officials said they could not guarantee his safety.

Then, four months later, on February 1, 2001, another student was found murdered in his dorm room, stabbed 17 times. Benjamin Varner was not known to be gay.

Later in the month, police arrested Gallaudet student Joseph M. Mesa Jr., and charged him with both murders. The motive for each was robbery, including use of

credit cards and forging a check for cash.

Mesa's attorney built a defense around a claim of insanity and Mesa testified that he had seen black leather-gloved hands in his mind, using sign language to tell him to kill Plunkett and Varner.

A jury needed only three hours last week to find Mesa guilty of premeditated murder, robbery, and burglary. The police had videotaped his three and a half hour confession, which made no

mention of the gloved hands, and the jury gave that aspect of the defense little credence.

Prosecutors are seeking a life sentence without parole. Judge Robert J. Richter will impose the sentence on July 10. Mesa's attorney is expected to argue that his client should be sent to a psychiatric hospital rather than a prison.

The verdict brought a sense of relief and closure to Gallaudet, where most students had already departed for summer vacation. ▼

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Some Important Facts About Syphilis

Syphilis is on the rise among gay men and bisexual men in San Francisco.

Syphilis is a Sexually Transmitted Disease caused by a type of bacteria (germ). It can infect men, women, and children. Syphilis can be passed from one person to another during anal, oral, or vaginal sex.

Possible early symptoms: (1-4 weeks after exposure)

- A skin sore called a chancre (shank-er).
- It is usually painless.
- It may appear on the penis, scrotum, anus, or mouth.
- Lymph glands near the sore may be swollen, but not painful.

All of the above symptoms will go away if untreated.

Possible later symptoms: (4-12 weeks after exposure)

- Flu-like illness with sore throat, headache and fever.
- Skin rash all over the body, on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet (not itchy) and sometimes in the mouth.
- Warty-like growths may appear in the mouth or on the penis, anus or scrotum.
- Patchy hair loss may be noticed.
- Other symptoms may include: neck stiffness, nausea, vomiting, seizures, hearing loss and loss of speech.

These symptoms will go away even without treatment. You are still infected.

IS SYPHILIS DANGEROUS?

Yes. If not treated, syphilis can cause brain damage, heart disease and other long-term health problems.

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU MAY BE AT RISK FOR SYPHILIS?

Get tested. Good doctors will ask you about your risk and test you for syphilis. If you think you have syphilis, go to your doctor or a clinic right away. It's very easy to treat, but you need to go get the treatment. Your sex partner(s) must be examined and treated. If not treated, they can give the infection back to you, or infect others. Make sure partners are treated or get treatment for them from your doctor.

Sexually active people should have an STD test every six months.

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Former SF man to head PFLAG

by Cynthia Laird

David Tseng, who formerly worked for San Francisco Treasurer Susan Leal as her chief assistant, was named the executive director of the national office of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

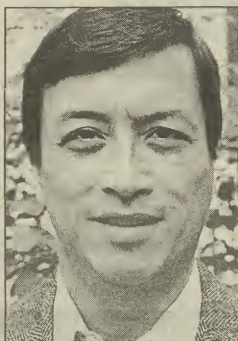
Tseng, who assumes his new duties June 1, is the first openly gay man and first person of color to serve as the organization's executive director. The announcement was made earlier this month.

"We conducted an extensive nationwide search for this key position with the participation of the entire board of directors and our staff," said Dr. Arnold Drake, PFLAG's national president. "David was the clear choice of everyone involved in the process."

Tseng was happy about getting the job. "I am honored and thrilled to have been chosen by PFLAG," he said in a statement, "and hope to continue the historic, trailblazing civil rights leadership that PFLAG families and Kirsten Kingdon have provided."

Tseng succeeds Kingdon, who retired May 15 after four years as the group's chief executive. Under her tenure, PFLAG grew from 416 to 468 affiliates nationwide.

"In PFLAG, our advocacy for GLBT equality grows out of our strong family values," Kingdon said. "David's commitment to these values, coupled with his ex-



PFLAG's David Tseng

perience in politics and government, will serve PFLAG well in our goal of changing hearts, minds, and policies."

Tseng is a former White House senior policy adviser and staff director for the National Economic Council.

PFLAG, which has chapters in cities across the country, has an annual budget of \$2.3 million, according to Jay Heavner, director of development and communications. Heavner said Tseng's annual salary would be in the "low six figures," but did not provide a specific amount.

A nationally recognized pension and health care expert, Tseng, 43, also served as a benefits policy

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BAY AREA REPORTER'S GAY PRIDE ISSUE

2002

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City launches 'Stop hepatitis' campaign

by Matthew S. Bajko

As the city sees a disproportionate number of homosexuals contracting hepatitis A and B, the health department is launching a new campaign to vaccinate gay men against the two diseases.

Already one week into the campaign, health workers are offering discounted hepatitis A and B shots at Gold's Gym on Market Street at Noe on Wednesday and Thursday evenings to people 18 and over. Since May 22, 15 people have already been immunized.

"For so long our health as a community of gay men has become defined by HIV. Hepatitis and other STDs have fallen off the radar screen," said Steve Gibson, the executive director of Castrogays, a new gay men's health center in the Castro. "Personally I was very fortunate that my doctor is very comfortable talking to me about gay men's sex lives. She recommended eight years ago that I should get vaccinated."

In addition to the Castro outreach, a 30-second TV public service announcement is being distributed to assist in generating public awareness about the importance of hepatitis A and B vaccination. The pilot project continues until November 21.

"These are very easy shots that are very effective. They are two diseases out there people do not have to be at risk for," said Janet Zola, a health educator with the Department of Public Health's

Communicable Disease Prevention Unit.

According to DPH 2001 figures, 85 percent of the 79 reported hepatitis A cases were among men. Of those cases, 75 to 95 percent were men who have sex with men. Also in 2001, 90 percent of the 61 reported hepatitis B cases were among MSMs.

Hepatitis A or B can cause liver cancer, cirrhosis, and other related liver diseases. Both of these serious liver diseases are preventable with safe, effective vaccines given in a series of shots. Most major health plans cover these vaccines for people in a risk category, including HIV-positive and hepatitis C-positive (HCV+) individuals.

"Anybody going in to be tested for HIV, no matter what their sexual orientation, is at risk for hep B," said Zola.

Yet among the 3,600 MSM seeking HIV testing services in 2001, the city reports that less than 16 percent have been vaccinated for hepatitis A, and less than 20 percent have been vaccinated for hepatitis B.

"That is pretty low considering the vaccines have been around for a long time," Zola said. "Also, we only know they have been vaccinated. We don't know if they have completed their vaccinations."

Hepatitis A is contracted through a fecal oral route, such as rimming or anal sex, while hepatitis B is blood borne and passed

from one person to another like HIV. The hepatitis B vaccine was licensed in 1989 and the hepatitis A vaccine became available in 1995.

Health officials do not have an accurate count of how many people have contracted either disease. The only figure known is that there are about 5,000 deaths a year in the United States associated with hep B.

The problem, say health officials, is most people do not know they have hepatitis A or hepatitis B. And without recognizable symptoms, many doctors are not testing their gay patients for the two diseases.

Health workers will be at Gold's Gym between 4 and 7 p.m.

every Wednesday and Thursday. Anyone can come in to be vaccinated, not just Gold's Gym members.

GlaxoSmithKline is helping to pay for marketing expenses of the campaign and both the Castrogays and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association are helping to promote it.

Those interested in getting vaccinated can pay \$15 for a series of two hepatitis A shots, \$20 for a series of three hepatitis B shots, or \$30 for a combo hepatitis A and B shot, also a series of three shots.

"The incentive is the cost of the vaccine which is ridiculously low. We are charging less than the health department pays to buy the vaccine," said Zola. ▽

State Farm Insurance accused of anti-gay tactics

by Matthew S. Bajko

In an attempt to discredit a gay man's claim for neck injuries sustained during a car accident, a State Farm Insurance lawyer tried to use the man's sex life against him.

In a case pending in Alameda County Superior Court, an employee of the corporate law department of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance demanded that the accident victim testify under oath and identify all his sex partners for the past two years, and describe the ways he has sex.

The victim, Dain Percifield, a former San Francisco resident who

now lives in Las Vegas, was injured when he was rear-ended on July 3, 2000 in Emeryville. When his claim went to State Farm's in-house attorneys, Percifield's deposition was taken, and then he was sent further questions to answer under oath, including asking him to name his "homosexual partner," list all his sex partners since the accident and to describe how he has sexual relations.

"I was really shocked that they decided to go to this next level, and the tone of the questions was really shocking," Percifield told the Bay Area Reporter in a phone interview.

Percifield's lawyer, Boone Callaway, said the questions being

asked of his client are blatantly homophobic, and are of no relevance to the case since Percifield is making no claim that his sex life was adversely affected by the accident.

"It is really bizarre to see this. That flavor of questions really smacks of somebody who is homophobic," said Callaway, a partner at the San Francisco law firm Callaway and Wolf. "I don't think you would ever see this asked to somebody who is a straight car accident victim. Somebody is hung up on gay sex."

Apparently State Farm's lead lawyer Willard Alloway agreed. Alloway, in a letter to Callaway dated May 22, wrote that he had not only

decided to withdraw the sex-related questions but also to withdraw from the case and transfer it to new attorneys.

"It goes without saying that my firm does not condone conduct which is homophobic and/or discriminatory," Alloway, who did not return calls seeking comment by press time, wrote in his letter.

Since the accident, Percifield said he has had chronic neck pain. He has seen several chiropractors and undergone physical therapy. While his claim is for an unspecified amount, he could receive \$25,000 in compensation.

The case is currently set for trial in Oakland on July 12. ▽

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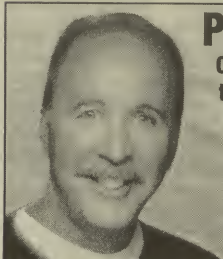
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Gay marriage and the Catholic priest scandal

by Dale Carpenter

Give credit where it's due, opponents of gay equality can be creative in desperation. Lately, they have been finding ingenious ways to use the Catholic priest scandal to criticize the entire gay civil rights project. The essence of their argument is that gays are incurably promiscuous, that this promiscuity is a kind of moral disease, and that it threatens to lay low every traditional institution it infects.

Stanley Kurtz, writing recently in the influential conservative magazine *National Review*, has applied this argument to same-sex marriage. The argument must be rebutted, and it can be.

Kurtz, a writer of considerable intelligence and subtlety, has specialized in rebutting the conservative case for gay marriage. That case has rested in part on a prediction (and a hope) that gay marriage would reduce gay promiscuity. This would improve the lives of gays and benefit society by, for example, increasing social stability and reducing the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases. Let's call it the "domestication effect."

Using the crisis in the Catholic Church as an example, Kurtz questions the likelihood of a domestication effect. Kurtz argues that gays go into the priesthood promising to meet the strictures of the institution (celibacy), perhaps sincerely believing they will, but soon fall prey to their profligacy. Similarly, gays would go into marriage promising to meet the strictures of the institution (fidelity), perhaps sincerely believing they will, but soon fall prey to their profligacy. If gay priests can't keep their vows of celibacy, it's unlikely gay spouses will keep their vows of monogamy.

In fact, Kurtz argues, it's worse than that: "The priesthood scandal is a stunningly clear case in which the opening of an institution to large numbers of homosexuals, far from strengthening norms of sexual restraint, has in-

stead resulted in the conscious and successful subversion of the norms themselves." That is, gays will not only fail to benefit from marriage, they will hurt it. As a conservative, I take this charge very seriously.

There are many ways to respond to Kurtz's analogy. One would be to question the comparison of an institution that allows some sexual outlet to participants (marriage) to another that completely forbids it (the Catholic priesthood).

Human nature may simply be better equipped to deal with restricted sexual access than with none at all.

Yet another response would be to note that Kurtz's argument has no apparent application to gay women, who can't even become Catholic priests.

But I want to attack Kurtz's conclusion that gay men will somehow destabilize marriage. First, let's make a concession to Kurtz for the sake of argument: suppose the magnitude of the domestication effect is indeed very small. We can doubt gay male promiscuity is simply an artifact of repressive laws that will wither away when those laws are gone. Of course, we cannot know for sure because no other regime has been available to gay men. But even if we concede that many gay men will not be changed much by marriage, will gay marriage change marriage?

Surely even Kurtz would agree that at least some gay couples in marriage would remain monogamous, just as many gay priests have remained celibate. And surely at least some, however small, domestication effect would take hold. This domestication effect will provide at least small benefits to gay men and to society, benefits that all principled conservatives should welcome. In a cost-benefits analysis, that's a point for gay marriage.

Then what's the cost? Though Kurtz never explicitly spells it out, he appears to fear that straight couples will see gay spouses living it up sexually and do the same

(that is, to a greater degree than they already do).

But this genuinely conservative nightmare sounds fanciful to me for two reasons. First, women will always be present in straight marriages and women will demand fidelity, as they always have. That won't change because they hear a few married gay men have open arrangements.

Second, even assuming gay men are uncontrollably promiscuous and that access to the social support marriage provides will not change things, it borders on paranoia to think they will manage to subvert marriage itself.

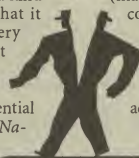
To see why, let's do some math. Conservative critics of gay equality like to say that homosexuals are no more than 3 percent of the population. I'd bet gays will get married at a lower rate than the general population, so gay married couples will likely represent less than 3 percent of all marriages.

Gay male married couples will be even rarer at first. The experience of Vermont civil unions shows that twice as many lesbian couples as gay male couples get hitched. Two-thirds of homosexual unions would probably be female pairings, which will be largely sexually closed (perhaps more so than straight couples).

The problematic gay couples – the gay men – will represent perhaps 1 percent of all marriages. Some of them will manage to be faithful all or most of the time, so the truly troublesome unfaithful gay male couples will represent less than one percent of all marriages.

These paltry numbers will undermine the institution of marriage? Undermine it more than the large percentage of married people who already acknowledge in studies they have been unfaithful? To state the proposition is to refute it. Perhaps gay conservatives have more faith in the institution of marriage than its traditionalist defenders do. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

**OutRight**

Sisters bridge the LGBT generations

by Adina

Being a dyke, I never thought that I would end up partying at the Edge in the Castro on a Thursday night and having a great time. I used to spend quite a lot of time on that corner of 18th Street and Collingwood when I volunteered with LYRIC for last year's Young, Loud and Proud youth leadership conference. I used to go by that bar all the time. It was usually full of half-naked, hairy guys and it smelled like beer and sweat. Not that there is anything wrong with that...

To benefit Q-Force, a fledgling nonprofit that brings together 18-28 year old LGBTQ young peo-

ple for volunteer activities and social events, a couple of months ago the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence hosted a beer bust at the Edge. It was a special night because Sister Constance Craving was to be veiled at a candle-lit ceremony held in conjunction with performances, and a raffle. As a founding member of Q-Force I was happy to be in attendance at the first event (hopefully of many more to come) that raised a significant sum for our organization.

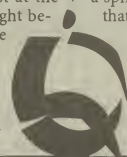
But that great night was more than just a fundraiser. That night I came into contact with a great cos-

mic convergence. I touched the Nexus; the point at which all of existence merges into one. There was a spiritual energy in that bar on that Thursday night that seems

not to come around but once every long while. Maybe it was the alcohol, maybe it was the buzz of the crowd, maybe it was the singing, maybe it was the impossibly sexy woman who was holding my hand; but I could have sworn it was the community that we created in that small building.

Wherever there is a positive queer presence at any event going on in the city, the Sisters of Per-

next page ►

**Generation Q**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Deadline approaching for Pride essays

by Cynthia Laird

Have you always wanted to see your name in print? Now is your chance as the Bay Area Reporter is once again seeking essays from readers about what LGBT Pride means to them.

This year's Pride theme is "Be Yourself, Change the World." How have you helped change the world by being yourself? Perhaps you work for an LGBT-owned business. Or maybe you helped start an LGBT employee group at

a straight-owned business. Maybe you and your partner have become parents. Or you've been involved in the fight for equal rights for many years as an activist or speaker. Whether you've just come out or have been out in the trenches for decades working to spotlight LGBT issues, yours is a voice we want to hear.

In 500 words or less, tell us what Pride and particularly this year's theme means to you. Why do you participate in what has become both a celebration and a po-

litical statement? What makes Pride special? What things should we keep fighting for, and what makes the Bay Area one of the best places to live if you're queer?

We'll run as many responses as we can in our upcoming Pride issue.

Essays must include your name, city, and a daytime phone number for verification. Submissions can be mailed to: B.A.R. Pride Essays, 395 9th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 or e-mailed to BARpaper@aol.com. The deadline for entries is Friday, June 7. ▼

Partners bill

◀ page 1

Keeley's bill specifies the fractions of property a surviving partner is entitled to in various situations, according to Eric Astacaan, legislative advocate at California Alliance for Pride and Equality.

A surviving partner would automatically be included in the succession of who is entitled to inheritance. If the couple had children, the bill calls for assets to be split between the domestic partner and those children. If the couple did not have children, the deceased partner's immediate family can claim up to one-half of his

or her assets.

"We appreciate the leadership of Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Fred Keeley in addressing this important issue for gay and lesbian families and senior domestic partners. This bill, when it becomes law, will provide our families with financial stability if a partner dies without a will," said Geoffrey Kors, CAPE board member and chair of CAPE's public policy committee.

"Allowing a surviving registered partner to inherit a portion of his or her partner's estate encourages responsibility and mutual support between two committed adults, protects the economic interests of the surviving partner

and their children, and clarifies the distribution of the estate," added Kors.

The 41 votes in support of AB 2216 were all from Democrats. Democratic Assemblyman Dean Florez (Shafter) joined 28 Republican Assemblymembers in voting against the bill.

AB2216 is now in the Senate Rules Committee, and it will most likely then go to the judiciary as well as appropriations committee.

"This bill attempts to achieve equity in California's inheritance laws. It should be non-controversial," said Keeley, pointing to a recent poll that found 73 percent of Americans supported inheritance rights for domestic partners. ▼

Latinos and HIV

◀ page 1

have found that gay and bisexual Latino men have the highest rates of unprotected anal intercourse, ranging from 40 to 52 percent of respondents. In one study done in the fall of 2000, 36 Latino men were asked about their sexual behaviors and attitudes. That study found that only slightly more than half the men were somewhat or very concerned about HIV.

"Sex is a taboo subject. If you talk about condoms to somebody, they will look at you with a blank face," explained Oliveros, who is openly gay. "That makes it a worse situation in terms of HIV infection. Somebody who is infected is not going to use condoms and is not going to talk about sex."

For those not familiar with the city's Latino population, they can mistakenly believe a poster written in Spanish is all that is needed to address HIV prevention and AIDS. But Oliveros, who has worked as a health educator since 1999, said sometimes the message is not getting through.

"While most of our clients are multilingual, they cannot read or write Spanish. They can speak it but they are totally illiterate," he said. "A lot of the day laborers and people who are really poor didn't

get any education. The city is making an effort to put ads in Spanish but they are not getting the message."

Even with well-educated, English-speaking Latinos, Oliveros said they are hearing the message about HIV but not always practicing safe sex.

"Some of them are not using condoms," he said. "They think with the new treatments, they can take a pill and don't have to worry about" having HIV or AIDS.

AIDS agencies that work within the Latino community are putting more emphasis on working with the day laborers — who oftentimes are sleeping with other men for money. And as seen with many black men who sleep with other men but identify as straight, many Latino MSMs also do not consider themselves to be gay.

"If they say they are gay they think they will be discriminated against," said Oliveros. "It concerns me how they view sex. The city has to put more effort into people working on Cesar Chavez Street."

Last year one of the contestants in the Miss and Mr. Gay Safe Latino pageant was a day laborer whom Oliveros had worked with and met. Just like all the other contestants, that man became a defacto HIV and AIDS prevention worker.

In fact, anyone in the audience leaves the pageant with a better understanding of HIV prevention and AIDS education. The winning contestants are those who receive the highest points answering questions about HIV and AIDS.

At a time when other means of prevention seem to be waning, and HIV prevention officials debate how to word their messages, the pageant continues to educate about the epidemic. And not just to gay, bisexual, or transgender Latino men, but also their mothers, sisters, and other family members who attend the show.

"These people become peer educators in the community about HIV and AIDS. They go out there and spread the message about HIV and AIDS and try to get people to use condoms," said Oliveros. "Every year, more and more people want to participate."

This year's pageant will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 5 at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre at 3301 Lyon Street in the Marina. Admission is \$10 and tickets will be sold at the door.

Instituto Familiar de la Raza will provide buses to transport people from its building at 2919 Mission Street to the theater. Buses will leave at 6 p.m. For more information, call (415) 647-4141. ▼

Q-Force has been invited to work with the Sisters on several projects planned for the future and has volunteered at events alongside the Sisters including Youth-a-Palooza that took place at the LGBT Community Center in March. Wherever you see Sisters keep a lookout for Q-Force volunteers because we are about to be everywhere too. As a Q-Force member, I invite you to check out our Web site at www.geocities.com/qforcesf to find out more about us or you can direct e-mail to qforcesf@yahoo.com. Q-Force is LGBTIQQ young people focusing our creative power toward social change. We are uniting to form a force of positive change in our communities. Join us and be a part of the solution. ▼

To find out about writing a future "Generation Q" column, which appears in conjunction with the Bay Area Reporter and LYRIC, please e-mail Ned_the_red@yahoo.com. All lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, intersex, queer, and questioning people age 25 and under are welcome to join the group of writers. No experience is required. All that is required is a different experience and the will to tell it. Because of the age of some of the writers or the fact that they may not be out to their families or face other circumstances, the authors of this column may only be identified by their first names.

Generation Q

◀ previous page

petual Indulgence are there; and not only are they present but they are deeply involved. They represent all that is potentially beautiful about being true to who and what you are. This being said, it was a true honor to be invited to celebrate with them, be blessed by them, and receive support from them. That night Q-Force joined forces with the Sisters in one common purpose and in so doing created a very unique and desired alliance. Building bridges across the expanse of years of life experience, the connection and acceptance that I felt that Thursday night was astounding.

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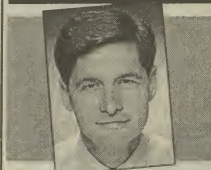
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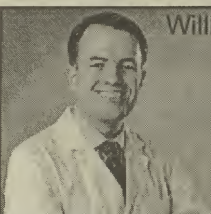
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They like to score

by Jim Provenzano

Wrestlers from Los Angeles, Seattle, New York City, Rochester, New York, and the Bay Area competed at the 17th annual Golden Gate Wrestling Club Memorial Day Tournament.

Twenty-five wrestlers competed in the tournament, with five athletes' injuries preventing them from competing. With six pools, and a round robin competition, 37 matches efficiently took place, between a few breaks.

"It wasn't the biggest, but the most competitive ever," said coach Gene Dermody. "We needed to add a novice bracket at the 180 pound level."

With three experienced officials who regularly run Bay Area tournaments, efficiency was the watchword. No serious injuries were reported, other than a sprained wrist.

A reunion of old acquaintances took place when Matt Carey (Los Angeles lightweight) met Golden Gate alumnus Steve Johnston at the tournament. They had both wrestled at Illinois Champaigne-Urbana. Johnston easily won the gold in 1994 at Gay Games IV.

Kevin Bernadt enjoyed competing in his first tournament. The deaf novice wrestler in the 180-

pound open category was very excited, and is going to Sydney.

"He epitomizes the reason why we have this tournament," said Dermody.

SF's Jose Caratini, who won a silver medal at Gay Games II in 1986 in the same weight class, is planning on reaping victory again in Sydney.



Sports Complex

Female (and novice) Malia Ambioti's victory in the men's 140-pound Veteran Elite class was the crowd-pleaser, as she straddled her opponents shoulders with her knees and managed a pin.

Full first, second, and third place winners:

140# Veteran Elite

1. Erich Richter (GGWC)
2. Jose Caratini (GGWC)
3. Rafael Cruz Rivera (Seattle Kings SKWC)

160# Veteran Elite

1. Ed Lindsey (Twin Towers NYC)
2. Johnny Almony (GGWC)
3. Matt Carey (Southern Cal WC SCWC-LA)

170# Veteran Elite

1. Phil Kahn (SCWC-LA)
2. Phillip Whaley (SKWC)
3. Correy Menotti (GGWC)

180# Novice Open

1. Michael Engel (GGWC)
2. Chris Baker (SCWC-LA)
3. Bob Easley (SKWC)

180# Veteran Elite

1. Phillip Tapon (GGWC)
2. Tom Dwyer (Rochester NY)
3. Anthony Dvlogcz (GGWC)

220#

1. Calvin Malone (GGWC)
2. Kurt Schauer (SKWC)
3. Kirk Mason (SKWC)

For more information, visit www.ggwc.org.

Your day on the court

The United States Gay Open filled tennis courts all over San Francisco last weekend. Two hundred and seventy players lobbied, backhanded, and served at courts in Golden Gate Park and elsewhere.

Players came from all over, but the gay tennis club with the most "firsts" is undoubtedly our own Gay & Lesbian Tennis Federation. Founded in 1980 by Les Balmain, sometimes called the "grandmother of gay tennis" in California, the GTF of San Francisco held the first "U.S. Openly Gay Tennis Tournament" in Golden Gate Park on Memorial Day 1981.

Balmain had also been a founder of the Gay World Series of Softball, and had the idea for a similar type of national championship in tennis. That first tournament was a full draw of 64 players coming primarily from California, but also represented were Boston, New York City, Atlanta, and Kansas City. The tournament was later renamed the U.S. Gay Open.

Last weekend saw many categories of competition. Here are the final match scores:

Men's Open Singles

Kerry Mitchell d. Tony Baisley 6-2; 6-1

Men's Open Doubles

Burgos/Mitchell d. Baisley/Clark 7-5; 7-5

Men's A Singles

Askat Ruzyev d. Antonio Ferrer 4-6; 6-3; 6-2

Men's A Doubles

Emperador/Olivares d. Cavallo/Ruzyev 6-7(6); 7-6(5); 6-2

Men's B Singles

Greg Prigmore d. Stephen Parisi 6-0; 6-4

Men's B Doubles

Prigmore/Walkey d. Gray/Yokoyama 6-4; 7-5

Men's C Singles

Chris Mok d. Lehr Orille 3-6; 6-1; 6-1

Men's C Doubles

Domiguez/Lopez d. Brockmann/Esmond 6-4; 6-1

Men's D Singles

Steve Larson d. David Olson 6-0; 6-4

Men's D Doubles

Anderson/Olson d. Larson/Mussman 6-1; 6-3

Men's 35+ Singles

Pat Loo d. Ronald Tai 3-6; 7-6(4); 6-4

Women's A Singles

Jasna Stefanovic d. Dianne Slowiejko 6-4; 6-1

Women's A Doubles

Frasier/Slowiejko d. Litton/Weinstein 6-2; 6-1

Women's B Singles

Amy Weinstein d. Amy Bronstone 6-3; 6-3

Women's B Doubles

Kazanjan/Iandoli d. Hamilton/Olken 5-7; 7-5; 7-5

Women's C Doubles

Ishiwata/Lefkowitz d. Burkhardt/do 6-2; 5-7; 6-0

Mixed Open Doubles

Slowiejko/Torres d.



Jane Wiesen, left (with her little one), and Mike Vuong, center, of San Francisco, winners of the Mixed A Doubles draw, receive their trophy from tournament director Richard Morehead.

Frasier/Mac Def (ns)

Mixed A Doubles

Litton/Ramil d. Allemann/Stevens 6-3; 3-6; 6-0

Mixed B Doubles

Bronstone/Childress d. Contreras/Popylisen 6-1; 6-2
Dancer/Hamilton d. Gray/Trexler 6-2; 2-6; 7-6(1)

Mixed C Doubles

Anderson/Ishiwata d. Choy/Lefkowitz 6-3; 7-5

For full stats and scores, visit: www.tennisinformation.com/tour/ny/1/7/6/0/7/4/5/results.asp

For more info on the Gay & Lesbian Tennis Federation, visit www.gltf.org.

Piazzattack

By now you know that New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza is straight. Or, at least he emphatically said he's straight. The foundations of gossip are having a ripping effect.

The hubbub and rabid speculation over gay professional athletes was given new gas to the flames when Mets manager Bobby Valentine was quoted in the June *Details* as saying that players can accept an openly gay teammate.

"The players are a diverse enough group now that I think they could handle it," he said.

Valentine reiterated his belief last week to *Sports Illustrated*. "We are all big boys. We can handle it," he said.

"In this day and age, it's irrelevant," Piazza said. "I don't think it would be a problem at all." Nevertheless, he considered being accused of gay worthy of a press conference.

New York *Post* sports columnist Wally Matthews was fired last week for "insubordination" after posting an Internet column that criticized the paper for running a gossip item about Piazza.

Matthews questioned the *Post's* integrity and claimed the paper "has no balls."

Suzi Halpin, executive vice president of Rubenstein Associates Inc., spokeswoman for the paper, said that, "In light of Matthews's derogatory comments and insubordination, *Post* management felt it was no longer appropriate for him to continue in the paper's employ."

This leaves one less sports writer to speculate about who the alleged New York gay baseball player may be. With Piazza emphatically declaring his heterosexuality,

that leaves quite a few other nominees for the role of *Out* editor Brendan Lemon's Mystery Date.

Let the feeding frenzy continue, without this reporter's championing at the bit. I've got too many out-of-the-closet jocks to interview, thank you very much.

Life is a cab

Liza Minnelli is said by publishing sources to be quietly shopping for a two-book deal. One of the books being explored would be written with new hubby David Gest on the topic of ... fitness.

You know, this being pre-Gay Games season, as you may have noticed that I've dispensed with the wisecracking and have begun to interview serious athletes in every one of the GGVI sports.

Let's see, Liza lost her teeth last month, Gest is lipo-ed beyond repair. So, no jokes about the contents of Liza's "fitness" book, other than formaldehyde recipes.

Perhaps a special chapter: "Someone Left My Facelift in the Rain."

Nope, no jokes. I hope you know what a tremendous sacrifice I'm making.

Think rink!

Skate Out 2002 promises to be simply the GLBT skating event of the summer.

Hosted at the Yerba Buena Ice Skating Center in San Francisco during Pride Weekend, even more novice skaters and veterans will share the ice at a special pre-Gay Games event.

Open to ice skaters ages 18 and over, embracing Gay Games' motto of inclusion, participation and personal best, Skate Out is endorsed by the Ice Skating Institute (ISI). Events include a technical/artistic category, spotlight/inter event, same-sex pairs and same-sex ice dance, as well as team skating exhibitions. PSA and USFSA members are welcome, as both organizations recognize ISI events.

Participating at Skate Out can get your ISI membership and/or test easily out of the way for Gay Games in Sydney.

The deadline to enter Skate Out 2002 is this Saturday, June 1. Visit www.32degreesmagazine.com/skateout.html for registration information and hotel discounts, or contact event chair Thom Mullins at goiceskate@aol.com. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Our Man Friday

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Cheney appears "very interested" in an elective political career of her own, but is currently busy working on getting her MBA.

Meanwhile, on his upcoming album, bad-boy rap artist **Eminem** lobs a four-letter word at Lynne Cheney, but she is hardly running away to a secure, undisclosed location. The recording star, a favorite target of Mrs. Cheney's criticism of the recording industry, unleashed the sexually charged word against her on the "White America" track of his new album, *The Eminem Show*, which was released this week. Cheney fired back through her spokeswoman, condemning his lyrics as a "glorification of violence" against women and gays.

Big bucks: In March, President Bush begrudgingly signed into law a campaign finance reform bill (McCain-Feingold) that would make large unregulated do-

nations illegal after the mid-term elections in November, but neither Dubya nor his party are losing any valuable time meanwhile – the \$30 million Bush and the GOP raised in one night last week easily shattered the previous single-night fundraising record of \$26.5 million that was set in 2000 by President Clinton and the Democratic Party. It is **George W. Bush**, who so openly called for the nation "to rise above partisan politics" after the September 11 terrorist attacks, who is now offering a photo of himself taken September 11 on Air Force One taken as he was flying the country trying to decide whether it was safe to return to Washington. The "limited edition" photo is available to GOP faithful for a paltry (but decidedly non-partisan) \$150; every good Republican household should have one.

Finally, some celeb news: Newly acclaimed lesbian **Rosie O'Donnell's** six-year-old talk show ended last week with **Tom Cruise**, **Nathan Lane**, a Broad-

way production number, and each audience member receiving a TiVo recorder and other valuable treats. O'Donnell showed a montage of guest clips, mixed in with pictures of her children and lover, **Kelli Carpenter**. "Can you believe it's the last day?" she said. "I'm sort of, like, in severe denial." A show highlight: Cruise on tape. In March, when asked by ABC's **Diane Sawyer** to reconcile her sexual orientation with her crush on Cruise, O'Donnell said, "I never once said I want him naked in a bed doing the nasty. I want him to mow the lawn and get me a lemonade." So, O'Donnell's final show ended with a video of Cruise walking back and forth across a lawn, pushing a mower. He then approached the camera and offered a tall, ice-filled drink. "Rosie, I cut your lawn," Cruise said. "Here's your lemonade."

And how was your week? ▼

Got a political tip? E-mail WayneFridaySF@aol.com.

Lesbian teacher

◀ page 12

a message to students that it is okay to attack people because of who they are.

"Young people learn from adult behavior, and it was important to wage this fight to show students all people have to be treated fairly," Murray said.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a national organization which fights for the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and

transgender people, said the lengthy and expensive battle is an example of the consequences school districts face for failing to take sexual orientation harassment seriously.

"Because the high school district failed to take appropriate action in Dawn's case, the district ended up losing a highly qualified and nationally recognized teacher, and wasting resources that could have been spent on improving education," said Lambda Legal senior counsel Jon Davidson. "This settlement sends an important message

to all school officials that everyone loses – and loses big – unless schools take effective steps to remedy sexual orientation discrimination and harassment on campus."

Lambda Legal successfully handled an earlier appeal in Murray's case, which in April 2000 reinstated her claims and ruled that California's laws banning anti-gay job discrimination also prohibit harassment based on sexual orientation. The case is *Murray v. Oceanside Unified School District*, San Diego County Superior Court Case No. N71842. ▼

DPH funds

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clients in those programs [at Shanti and AHP] the total is about 1,700 people served. I don't know what's going to happen to all those people. Who's going to provide all those services?" asked Rybicki.

At AHP, which does psychiatric counseling and provides support groups for people living with HIV/AIDS, about \$383,000 in DPH money funds its intake service, through which all potential clients pass, 21 support groups for men with HIV/AIDS, and the women's support group.

The cuts at SFAF would reduce the scope of its housing subsidy program for those living with HIV/AIDS. It would also, according to policy director Dana Van Gorder, eliminate San Francisco's contribution to the foundation's HIV/AIDS telephone hotline.

Ben Rosenfield, the mayor's director of finance, said, "We have been working to reduce reductions in DPH. Those include AIDS research and services – that's been one of our goals. But there are still some moving pieces."

Because of the interlocking relationship between city and state funding for these programs, and because the state's budget, due on July 1, is expected to be very late, Rosenfield said, "We may not know the impact for months."

In his May revision to the state budget, Governor Gray Davis proposed cuts, which would reduce state funding to San Francisco's Department of Public Health by about \$4 million, according to the department's director, Dr. Mitchell Katz.

The governor's May budget revision, "set us back \$30-40 million," according to Leno. "It took it out of the hide of the cities and counties."

The proposed cuts include a statewide \$1.1 billion cut to Medi-Cal on which the DPH is heavily dependent.

The cuts will reduce enrollment in Medi-Cal, according to Katz, "increasing the numbers of uninsured who will seek care at the department's hospitals and clinics."

"Don't balance the budget on the poorest and weakest and sickest people in town," said Tom Nolan, executive director of Project Open Hand, which provides meals to those living with AIDS – and which has just suffered a 6.2 percent cut in funding that led to layoffs and salary reductions, as was reported earlier this month in the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"At Open Hand we cut back on personnel. That's what the city should be doing. That's what Tom Nolan did. He cut back from the top. I wish the city would do the same thing," said Jim Illig, a staffer at Project Open Hand. ▼

Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. He is a superb choice to head a civil rights organization for a community whose time has come."

PFLAG was founded in 1973 and promotes the health and well-being of LGBT people, their families, and friends through support, education, and advocacy. For more information, visit the Web site at www.pflag.org. ▼

PFLAG's San Francisco chapter will hold its next meeting Sunday, June 9. The support group meets from 2-3 p.m., followed by the program featuring Anne Tamar-Mattis and Johnnie Pratt from the LGBT Community Center. The meeting takes place at St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church Street, at Market. For more information, call (415) 921-8850.

PFLAG

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adviser for the U.S. Department of Labor and worked as an attorney in private practice in Los Angeles. He earned his undergraduate degree with honors in English literature from Columbia University and received his juris doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law. He and his partner of seven years, John Burnim, reside in Washington, D.C.

Tseng's selection drew praise from across the political spectrum.

"He is someone who is very smart and has strong organizational and administrative skills," Leal told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Any organization should be happy to have him. I know this is something he's really put his heart into."

"I am delighted that PFLAG has selected... David Tseng, to be its next leader," said Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California). "David's exceptional skills and knowledge, combined with his perspective as a gay Latino Asian American, equip him well to lead PFLAG in its vital mission of securing full civil rights for all Americans."

Congressman Mark Foley (R-Florida) echoed bipartisan support for Tseng. "PFLAG has made a wise choice in selecting David Tseng to direct their national efforts on behalf of gay and lesbian equality."

Bill Lann Lee, former U.S. assistant attorney general for civil rights, who has known Tseng for years, also expressed pleasure at Tseng's appointment. "I have known David throughout his career to be an effective leader and coalition builder in our communities, and in the halls of power in

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-02540260

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The following person(s) are doing business as: Cheztse- Gem- Design. 3549 Lawton Street #628, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Felix Y. Tse, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/02/2002. MAY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257429

The following person(s) are doing business as: IGB & Associates. 1571 22nd Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gary Millars. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 16, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/06/2002. MAY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-02540260

In the Matter of the Application of Kristy Marie Kelm For change of Name. The application of Kristy Marie Kelm for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Kristy Marie Kelm has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Kristy Marie Sheldren. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 8th day of July at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. MAY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257540

The following person(s) are doing business as: Arra Medical Billing Services. 727 Dartmouth Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Freddy Rodriguez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/08/2002. MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257547

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bidet Kit. 1930 Lombard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Latora Salvatore. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/08/2002. MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The name of the applicant is Citizen Cake Partners L PSHIP. The applicant listed above is applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, California 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 399 Grove Street, San Francisco, California 94102. 47-ON SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE. DATE: MAY 30, JUNE 6, 13, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257544

The following person(s) are doing business as: J. Fregosi & Son. 4834 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Kevin Odiozli. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 8, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/08/2002. MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257589

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rocker Guitars, Sporty's Adult Video. 1350 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Rocker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 9, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/09/2002. MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257919

The following person(s) are doing business as: Shamrock Real Estate Company 630 Taraval Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94116.. This business is conducted by an corporation signed Bernadette Naughton. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 22, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/22/2002. MAY 30, JUNE 6, 13, 20, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257926

The following person(s) are doing business as: Shamrock Development Company, Shamrock Real Estate & Development Company 630 Taraval Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed Bernadette Naughton. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 22, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/22/2002. MAY 30, JUNE 6, 13, 20, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257609

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hutchins Construction Company, 42 Guttenberg Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Sheila Hutchins. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/09/2002. MAY 30, JUNE 6, 13, 20, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257905

The following person(s) are doing business as: SFinterlink, 3901-18th Street Commercial Property, 3903A-18th Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Mari Tomiyama. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 22, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/22/2002. MAY 30, JUNE 6, 13, 20, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257867

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hot House Entertainment Inc., Trust Magazine San Francisco, 460 Grove Street San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an corporation, signed Steven Scarborough. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 01/1997. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/21/2002. MAY 30, JUNE 6, 13, 20, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 235303

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Bay Boogie, Josh-Wash Located at: 2269 Chestnut Street #431, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: October 4, 1999. This business was conducted by: a individual: Joshua M. O'Hara. MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257698

The following person(s) are doing business as: Antique Enterprises, LLC. 325 9th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Robert McCartney. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/14/2002. MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-02540261

In the Matter of the Application of Christopher Charles Kelm For change of Name. The application of Christopher Charles Kelm for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Christopher Charles Kelm has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Christopher Charles Sheldren. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 8th day of July at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. MAY 9, 16, 23, 30, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257630

The following person(s) are doing business as: Powerhousegym.com. 2546 3rd Street, #6, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Jon Woolsey. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/13/2002. MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Department of the Environment Grants/Fundraising Coordinator: This position is responsible for day-to-day coordination of fundraising from environmental foundations, state and federal environmental grants, community environmental grants and contract administration and management. \$52,234 - \$63,492 Annual. Minimum Qualifications: BA Degree and two years experience. Deadline May 31, 2002. For a more detailed job description go to www.sfenvironment.com

APPLY TO THE YOUTH COMMISSION

The San Francisco Youth Commission is pleased to announce that applications for the 2002-2003 term are now available! The Youth Commission is a group of 17 youth between the ages of 12-23 who advise city officials on youth policies in San Francisco. You can get your application by calling the Youth Commission Hotline at (415) 554-6464 Ext. 1 or download a copy from the Youth Commission website at http://www.sfgov.org/youth_commission...but hurry, applications are due by 5:00pm on June 8, 2002.

BLACK INFANT HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Black Infant Health Improvement Program (Bi-Hip) is a free program that provides supportive services to pregnant and parenting African American women with children up to 2 years of age. If you or someone you know is a woman that needs help finding a doctor, getting to appointments, connecting to community resources, preparing for a new baby, or just someone to talk to, please call Bi-Hip at (415) 671-0214.

SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER ASSURANCE (CASF)

Consumer Tip! With the high cost of fuel these days it make sure you get what you pay for! Always make sure you are paying the advertised price per gallon for fuel. Contact the CASF if you have a complaint relating to weight, count or measure. The round county seal on the gas pump ensures the pump was tested and the CASF phone number is on the seal for your protection. Be a smart consumer!

The CASF protects San Francisco's citizens by researching consumer complaints regarding the sale of goods and services sold by weight, count or measure. Consumer protection includes testing scales, price scanners and packaged commodities in retail stores, testing taxicab meters for accuracy, testing gasoline pumps and many other devices. Inspectors regulate quality standards for produce, plants and flowers and complete pest inspections to protect California's billion dollar agriculture crops from diseases. The department protects consumers and businesses from dishonest practices that include fraud, deceptive practices or negligence. The Department also handles insect identification, bed inquiries and provides information about the Germany Farmers' Market and Germany Antique & Collectibles Market.

Contact the department to report possible fraud relating to weight, count or measure, deceptive packaging or advertising, retail store scanner pricing errors, inaccurate meters, short weight on products, substandard produce or illegal tobacco advertising. A consumer complaint form is available on our website at www.ci.sanfrancisco.ca.us/casf or contact us directly with complaints. Help us promote equity in the marketplace in San Francisco!

For more information: Department of Consumer Assurance, 501 Cesar Chavez, Suite 109A, San Francisco, CA 94124; (415) 824-6100; fax (415) 285-8776; TTY: 415-285-1214 Toll Free: (888) 966-SURE (7873) www.ci.sanfrancisco.ca.us/casf



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Food Service Specialist: creative and experienced cook with demonstrated ability to plan and prepare nutritious meals and snacks for populations with special needs. Main responsibility will be coordinating meals for the residents of the Assisted Care Facility. Plan menus one month in advance and keep on file. Resourceful in maintaining and creating community contacts to supplement budgeted food allowances. Maintain kitchen equipment and supplies. Prepare special meals or snacks for very ill residents with special needs as instructed. \$31 - 33K DOE.

Employment Technology Specialist: Bachelors Degree in related field (education, social work, psychology). High-energy, detail-oriented individual with strong interest in working with homeless and runaway youth. Work within and to expand current computer curriculum. Help youth increase skills essential for securing employment. Program support within Hire Up: education and employment services portion of the LSYS continuum. Strong technical skills with MS Office. Ability to trouble-shoot computers. Bilingual Spanish/English preferred. \$31 - 34K DOE.

Case Manager: provide casework services to high-risk youth who have been abused, are at risk for, or have HIV, and/or are involved in substance abuse. Responsibilities: intake and assessment; case planning and contracting; individual, family and group counseling; resource brokerage and referral, case coordination and advocacy; financial assistance services; follow-up and aftercare, as needed. MSW or MA in related field required. Minimum of two years experience working with high-risk youth, especially in the area of child abuse. Ability to provide HIV education, prevention, as well as substance abuse, counseling. Bilingual in English and Spanish preferred. \$40 - 43K DOE.

Counselor: provide guidance, information, and services within the agency's mission and goals, to homeless and runaway youth who have been abused, are at risk for or have HIV, and/or are involved in substance abuse. Maintain a safe and supportive multi-cultural environment. Ability to work with, and relate to, diverse high-risk adolescents and young adults who are living on the streets. Motivate clients to explore and accept alternatives to street life. Plan and implement educational programs and activities for youth and monitor their outcomes. Overnight, evening, and weekend shifts required. Valid CA Driver's License required. Bilingual English/Spanish a plus. \$28K.

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 257568

The following person(s) are doing business as: Isis Management Group, 398 11th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Deborah Christian. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 26, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/09/2002.
MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257474

The following person(s) are doing business as: Artique Galleria/ Artique, 1263 Howard Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Louis Camacho. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/07/2002.
MAY 23, 30, JUNE 6, 13, 2002



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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 257739

The following person(s) are doing business as: 3rd Rail LLC, 59 Vicksburg Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Christian J. Whipp, principal member. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 05, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/15/2002. MAY 23, 30, JUNE 6, 13, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257905

The following person(s) are doing business as: SFinterlink, 3901-18th Street Commercial Property, 3903A- 18th Street San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Mari Tomiyama. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 22, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/22/2002. MAY 30, JUNE 6, 13, 20, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257523

The following person(s) are doing business as: St. Francis Fountain, St. Francis Fountain Restaurant, 2801 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Levon Kazarian, principal. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 08 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/08/2002. MAY 23, 30, JUNE 6, 13, 2002



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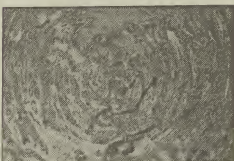
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Come on in, the reading's fine
Books in review by Dennis Cooper, Kirk
Read, Jamie O'Neill, Lawrence Schimel.
pages 32-33, 35, 40-41

Let the games begin?
Violence as entertainment
in porn: disturbing trend.
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Dispatching Madame
'Murderous Maids' stuns
with true story at Castro.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 22 • 30 May 2002

Men, figuratively speaking

'Everyman: A Search for the Male Form' at SF Camerawork

by Will Shank



In the Beginning VI,
1994, by Bohinchang
Koo, on display at
SF Camerawork

The text at the entrance of SoMa's SF Camerawork notes that an exhibition titled *No More Heroes: Unveiling Masculinity* was installed in the nonprofit's galleries in 1991. It was all about the representation of the phallus in photography. Although representations of the penis in all of its varied forms and conditions abound in the current *Everyman: A Search for the Male Form*, the owners of

the masculine member seem curiously emasculated this time around, 10 years later.

Ten male photographers who deal with male imagery, both homo and heterosexual, are represented here, and their subjects appear burdened by the effects of the AIDS decades, haunted by the past, and distorted by sexual politics and gender confusion. *Everyman* is an important exhibition of

photographs selected by guest curator Nora Kabat.

Far from being viewed exclusively as a sex object (thank you, Feminist Movement, for making this role reversal possible!), even the erotic photographs are compromised by, for instance, implied mutilation, in the collages of the coyly self-identified Anonymous Artist of the
page 38 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



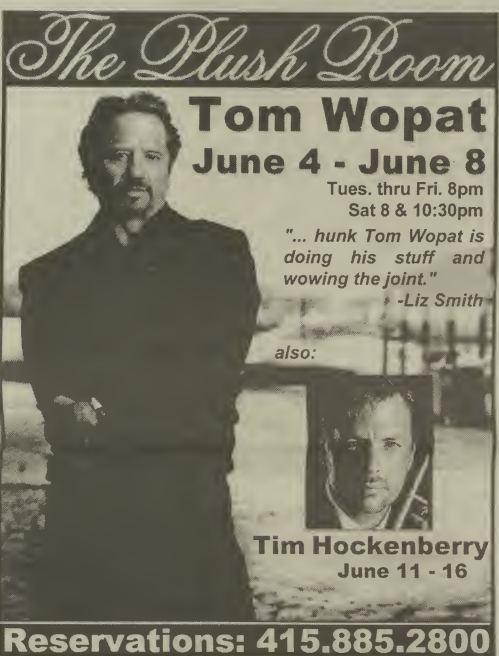
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by Roberto Friedman
and Waltzing Matilda

What d'you do after a mind-bending 15-hour flight from Los Angeles to Sydney, when you've neither slept nor shaven, and the International Date Line (IDL) has sent you reeling through a time warp? Drop your bags off at the **W** hotel in Woolloomooloo and head for Bondi Beach, famous for its shapely Aussie lifeguards stripped down to their swimmers. Beginning to sound like a gay press tour?

Witnesses from several leading American gay mags, rags, and portals drooled involuntarily while a dozen young Australian men with shaved and gleaming physiques were oiled up and put through their paces in brightly colored cossies for an **AussieBum** swimsuit photo shoot. For the camera, these guys were forced to play beach soccer, plunge into the surf and then damp-pose on a mild, cloudy fall day in Sydney. Nothing that would get their flawless bobs sandy, of course.

Even toweling off and chatting you up, the AussieBums kept looking great, sharing secrets from the worlds of personal trainers and jetsetters. They weren't models, they were real chaps, and they looked stunning. A b'day cake was presented to SF man-about-town **Jacques Michaels**, whose 40th had barely escaped the IDL. But the real winners were the haggard if stimulated traveling media corps & entourage. But the real winners were the ones able to scoop those shackled to the monthly press.

We know it's confusing, we'd just traveled a trillion miles from home, and everyone was speaking English (sorta). In the cities, Australia feels like the States smushed into Britain — plus Canada. Too bad we never learned the metric system! A feature in the Melbourne *Sun-Herald* actually called speedos "dick stickers" and "Sluggos." Which makes us Nancies, we suppose.

What was OT doing in a place where the national obsession is a



Cossie models create pyramid and wave flag at Bondi Beach; film at 11.

sport they call "footy?" For one thing, the emphasis on sports involving running and kicking pretty much assures a high inventory of men with fabulous arses. And you gotta love a place with district names like **Manly Beach** and **Darling Harbour**.

The *Sydney Morning Herald*, in a right-minded op-ed piece called, "If the city's where the boys are, then it has to be fabulous," argued that "the size of the gay population is the best measure of a great place to live;" ergo, Sydney is Queen. "Of course, the gay index only reflects amenities that adults value — hip locations, nice weather, restaurants and theatres." But our gay index reflects amenities that kids value: fun, frolic and frottage. We know: it's a cry for help!

Oh okay, we value hip locations, too, like **Arq** nightclub (pronounced as in **Noah's**) in Darlinghurst, a multilevel pleasure palace where the boys enter each floor by a glass revolving door that lets you eye up the merchandise before he walks in the room. Smoking!

Kangaroo court

Now, we might not know much about Western Australia, where cossies are called "budgie-smugglers" or "sluggers" (we're out!), but we've got the Eastern Seaboard pretty much covered. We knew how much the **kangaroo** is a part of Aussie culture (it adorns the tails of **Qantas** planes), but we weren't prepared for what a large presence the roo has in the popular press. "Town Council in uproar over roo cull" was a not-atypical headline. On hunting roo down for their meat, "Fair game!" declared an Aussie (pronounced *Ozzie*, as in ruby slippers). "There are plenty of 'em!"

Sydney gets all the press, but we grooved on Melbourne, with its trams and theatres like the Princess, now showing *Mamma Mia*, and the Victorian Arts Centre, where **Rachel Griffiths** was

starring in **David Auburn's Proof**. She told the *Sunday Age*, "I get spun out in L.A. When I'm in America, I feel I'm not good enough, and I have to go shopping." The Age kindly recalled that Griffiths "secured everlasting Melbourne fame by flashing her pink bits at the opening of the Crown money bin."

The US is currently overrun by Aussie actors. Perth-born hunk **Heath Ledger** will portray Aussie hero **Ned Kelly** in an upcoming biopic; let's not forget **Judy Davis**, **Nicole Kidman**, **Toni Collette**, **Geoffrey Rush**, juicy **Hugh Jackman**. Even execrable **Kiwi Russell Crowe** keeps a home there. True, actor **Guy Pierce** needs arse-padding, and "does look remarkably snakehipped in person," according to the Aussie press. But the roo pack is poised to take over Ho'wood.

In Melbourne, we stayed at the designy **Prince** in St. Kilda, and breakfasted at **Big Mouth**. When, at a table at gay café **red orange**, one of our traveling party mouthed a platitude about how we're all the colors of the rainbow in the gay community, our lunch guest **Stella**, former star of the Melbourne drag stage, rejoined, "No, we're not! We're fraught with drama, and fraught with bitter divisiveness."

Meantime, the French sex film *Baise Moi* was being pulled from movie theatres for being too graphic. "Fuck Me?" Fuck that! The Australian government has a long history of prurient censorship. SF director **Marc Huestis** saw his doc *Sex Is...* refused an R rating Down Under in 1994. The movie could only be booked with an X rating, after the distributor put black tape over all the dirty bits, known Stateside as "the good parts."

Sporty spice

Qantas flight steward: "I'm competing in the Gay Games!" What's your event? "Social ten-pin bowling!" We toured the Sydney Football Stadium, venue for the opening and closing ceremonies for the Gay Games, November 2-9; a rousing footy game happened

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Putting on 'The Ritz'

New Conservatory revives McNally farce

by Richard Dodds

A gay bathhouse has finally reopened in San Francisco. The catch is that it's fictional. Your funny bone is the only body part that will get a workout at *The Ritz*.

The New Conservatory Theatre Center has revived Terrence McNally's 1975 farce inspired by New York's legendary Continental Baths, a place where men in towels could emerge from the steam to catch a cabaret act. It was a perfect modern-day gay equivalent for the *hotels d'amour* that Feydeau used in his farces a century ago.

Perfect, except that only a few years after *The Ritz* opened on Broadway, gay bathhouses had become associated with the very unfunny business of AIDS. On a sociological note, it's interesting that audiences are ready to laugh again about a time when decadence was divinely innocent.

The most telling moment comes early in the first act, when a hapless straight guy from Cleveland winds up at the Ritz (imaginatively realized by designer Robert Vogt) believing it's like his health club back home. "You could catch athlete's foot in a place like this," he says, concerned that the establishment has failed to provide him with slippers. The retort from a regular: "You're lucky if that's all you catch."

There was just the sliver of a beat before the opening-night audience at NCTC burst into laughter. A knowing laugh, certainly, and a rueful one, maybe, but a laugh all the same.

Director Ed Decker and his cast have captured much of the humor in this frantic tale of a bumbling innocent hiding out from his mobster brother-in-law. There were occasional fumbles



Cast of NCTC's *The Ritz*: inspired by NYC's legendary Continental Baths.

with props on opening night, but the principal players are in tune with their farcical characters and the high-octane energy of the show. Some of that energy disappeared before the play was over, but put the blame on the playwright for spending too much time tying up all the loose ends.

Holy enema

On the other hand, it is Decker, the director, who must have felt the need to ratchet up the play's prurience, since, true to the Feydeau tradition, nobody gets laid in *The Ritz*. And so we have a musical triangle dangling from one character's exposed cock, and a priest who uses the tip on the tube from an enema bag to bless the surroundings with holy water. These and other crude touches are counterproductive to the spirit of the show, but fortunately are only occasionally invoked.

What's most fun about this production are the capital characterizations provided by corpulent

Richard Ryan as the harried man on the lam, Jim Hoggatt as the nerdy chubby-chaser who pursues him, Jeff Larson as a campy bath habitué, and Laura Sottile as the malaproping cabaret aspirant Gogie Gomez.

Also in the swing of things, if with a bit less polish, are Jeff Manabat and Craig Stein as lookalike towel boys, Nathan Frye as the soprano-voiced private detective, Robert Cooper as the gun-toting brother-in-law, and Kristi Scott as the wife of the fugitive.

The Ritz ran for a year on Broadway, but it's an unlikely candidate for revival in a forum where straight audiences predominate. Ironically, perhaps, the group most devastated by AIDS is the first that can look back in laughter. ▼

The Ritz will run through June 29 at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Call 861-8972.

A floozy named Suzy

42nd Street Moon's 'Pipe Dream'

by Richard Dodds

If you come by a rare staging of *Pipe Dream*, such as the one now at the Eureka Theatre, you may well conclude that Rodgers and Hammerstein shouldn't be dealing with prostitutes and tramps. But Richard Rodgers was way ahead of you. "We shouldn't have been dealing with prostitutes and tramps," he said, decades ago.

This team, whose collaboration began with prancing cowboys and ended with harmonizing nuns, wound up creating the gosh-darn nicest bunch of floozies you're likely to meet. They sing about living in the "Happiest House on the Block" with sorority-sister conviction, and are too busy planning a masquerade party to deal much with gentlemen callers.

Pipe Dream has the distinction of being the only Rodgers and Hammerstein musical to lose money, and it ended the team's spotty efforts at pushing the musical-comedy envelope. The songs are in a recognizable Rodgers and Hammerstein style, but the uneasy material did not inspire their better efforts.

While 42nd Street Moon has



Marcie Henderson as Suzy

restored some of the grit that was excised during the 1955 musical's tryout, its production of *Pipe Dream* can conjure only scant moments of informing atmosphere. It is a staged concert, after all, with no sets or props, and limited costumes. But a little grubbiness might be in order, especially for Suzy, a recent arrival to the squalor of Cannery Row. She does make two costume changes during the show, so her arrival outfit could at least suggest her desperate straits.

Suzy is a variation on the prostitute with a heart of gold, though Hammerstein's libretto (from John Steinbeck's novel *Sweet Thursday*)

hedges on whether she is actually put to work in that merry brothel. She does take a liking to Doc, an iconoclastic marine biologist who has been adopted by the denizens of Cannery Row as a kind of wise father figure. Suzy and Doc do a dance of attraction and rejection until the inevitable happy ending.

It's hard to get a fix on Marcie Henderson's Suzy — is she a good girl gone bad, or a bad girl going good? — and that clouds the drama of her relationship with Doc. There is nothing wrong with Jackson Davis' performance of Doc, and Meg Mackay lends some of her sunny charm to the brothel's madam.

There are some darker nuances tucked into the show, but director Greg MacKellan has not highlighted them in 42nd Street Moon's second visit to *Pipe Dream*. This is a reasonable mounting of a problematic show, yet one can't escape the feeling that there is more to it than this convivial production provides. ▼

Pipe Dream will run through June 9 at the Eureka Theatre. Tickets are \$25 & \$27. Call 255-8207.

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Trotting with nuns and virgins

7th annual Berkeley Festival & Exposition begins this weekend

by Jason Serinus

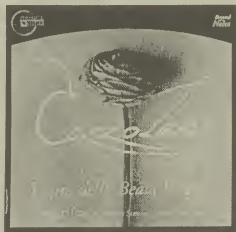
Starting this Sunday afternoon, admirers of Renaissance and Baroque music will throng to Berkeley, as the 2002 Berkeley Festival & Exposition, and the concurrent Fringe Festival, offer eight days and nights of early music concerts, lectures, symposia and master classes.

Produced by Cal Performances in cooperation with UC Berkeley's Music Department, the San Francisco Early Music Society (SFEMS), and *Early Music America* magazine, the seventh biennial Berkeley Festival, scaled back because of budget cuts, relies heavily on local artists and ensembles. This is hardly an artistic compromise; as a center of historically informed performance, the Bay Area serves as home for many of the finest early music groups and performers in the US. In fact,

from morning to night, hundreds of highly accomplished early music performers who are not part of the Cal Performances Festival will present a host of concurrent Fringe Festival concerts.

The Berkeley Festival & Exposition opens Sunday afternoon, June 2, as Keyboardist Davitt Moroney and the UC Berkeley Collegium Musicum present *Iberia Gloriosa*, a program of music from Baroque and Renaissance Spain. The concert will spotlight the Pacific Lutheran Seminary's prized Spanish Baroque organ.

Sunday night, Magnificat, the Bay Area-based early music ensemble directed by Warren Stewart, performs *A Hidden Gem: Psalms and Motets of Chiara Margarita Cozzolani*. One of the few female Renaissance composers whose music survives, the Milanese Cozzolani, born in 1602, spent over 55 years of her life as a nun confined within the walls of the Convent of Santa Radegonda.



Magnificat has recently released a box set of Cozzolani's extremely beautiful *Second Vespers for the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin* (Musica Omnia). The discs reveal that Cozzolani not only understood the special mystery of women's voices, but was a master at utilizing high-octave purity to express devotion to Jesus, Mary, and the Holy Spirit. As one listens to Cozzolani's felicitous polyphonies, one cannot help but acknowledge the sincerity and joy at the root of

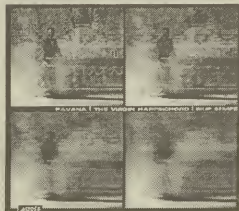
her faith. The recording quality, which lacks the brilliance heard in live performance, merely hints at the delights that await attendees of this not-to-be-missed Hertz Hall program.

As the week progresses, performances include the Baroque violin/harpsichord duo Music of the Spheres performing *The Fantastics: Virtuoso Violin in 17th Century Italy*; harpsichordist Davitt Moroney performing J.S. Bach's French Suites; the Artaria Quartet presenting *Zephyrus Afresh: Wind Quintets of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*; the UC Chamber Chorus singing their way through Eastern Orthodox choral music; and the Musica Pacifica and dancers in *Crossing the Channel: Airs and Dances from Baroque France and England*. Both the Artaria Quartet and Musica Pacifica boast the playing of Elizabeth Blumenstock, one of the most in-demand Baroque violinists in the country.

Horse ballet

Thursday afternoon brings the first of three "family fare" performances of *Le Carrousel du Roi*, a spectacular reconstruction of the musical equestrian spectacle staged in Paris for the 1612 betrothal of Louis XIII. Held at Walnut Creek's Heather Farm Park, the "horse ballet" features more than 20 costumed horse and rider teams, with the London-based Orchestra of the Renaissance, soprano Jennifer Ellis, and assorted gymnasts sweetening up the proceedings. Hightail it over to this Hi Ho Silver sell-out of the 2000 Festival, remounted with additional choreography and an ensemble of Arabian horses.

Friday night brings the Bay Area debut of harpsichordist Skip Sempé, as he joins his Capriccio Stravagante ensemble and mezzo-soprano Guillemette Laurens in an all-French program, *La Récréation en Musique*, featuring works by Leclair, Rameau, Lully, and the like. Judging from the rich, colorful, consistently engaging playing heard on Sempé's just-released Harmonia Mundi recording, *Pavana: The Virgin Harpsichord*, the intimacy of Hertz Hall will prove ideal for his energetic music-making.



Several additional delights await those who embrace life beyond *The Four Seasons*. After lesbian recorder legend Marion Verbruggen presents a recital with harpsichordist Arthur Hass and viola da gambist Mary Springfels, Jeffrey Thomas and his American Bach Soloists present a program of celebratory Bach cantatas in honor of one of the Bay Area's staunchest supporters of early music, the recently-deceased Joseph Spencer.

For the Festival's June 9 finale, Skip Sempé and crew join the Bay Area boys of the Chanticleer vocal ensemble in a return to Renaissance Spain. Entitled *Canto a mi Caballero*, the afternoon concert includes music by Antonio Cabezon, Cristobal de Morales, Cipriano de Rore, and other early 16th-century composers. ▼

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Servants and their masters

Jean-Pierre Denis' 'Murderous Maids' opens at the Castro Theatre

by Tavo Amador

Creating a suspenseful, haunting film that announces its climax in the title is not easy, but French director and co-sce-narist Jean-Pierre Denis succeeds in doing so with his stunning *Murderous Maids*, which plays the Castro Theatre from May 31–June 12.

Why does a person commit unpremeditated murder? What would make an individual suddenly lose control of her emotions and savagely kill an employer who, by the standards of the time, was kind? In 1933, France was shocked by a crime of passion so ghastly that it inspired Jean Genet's play, *The Maids*, and led to pronouncements from Jean Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir, both of whom had little difficulty in justifying the atrocity on the basis of class warfare and oppression.

In recreating these events, Denis avoids such dehumanizing generalizations, preferring to let the characters and situations unfold naturally and chronologically. The three Papin sisters are sent to convent school by their mother. The two younger ones, Christine (Sylvie Testud) and Lea (Julie-Marie Parmentier), become very close. Christine has hopes that their absent father will one day free them from their mother, Clemence (Isabelle Renauld). Her hopes are dashed when Clemence tells her that their father had sexually molested the elder sister, who eventually becomes a nun.

Christine's sense of alienation, and her resentment of her mother, has been with her from birth. It is clear that mother prefers Lea, and the two compete for the affections of and control over the youngster.

The girls are eventually put in service as maids. Some of Christine's employers are harsh or indifferent; others are patronizing. (One tells her she will be allowed to use butter on her bread, but to do so sparingly, as it is expensive.) She occasionally behaves oddly. But she saves her money and dreams of providing Lea with a lovely trousseau, one she will make herself. In a touching scene, the two buy some fabric for a dress for the younger sister.

Then, in what seems a stroke of luck, Christine secures employment in the Lancelin household. Although Madame Lancelin (Dominique Labourier) is strict (she dons white gloves to inspect the



Sylvie Testud (left) and Julie-Marie Parmentier in *Murderous Maids*: as shocking as a caffeine jolt.

parlor for dust), she is also kind, generous, and appreciative of the housekeeping skills Christine learned from the nuns. Nonetheless, the work is difficult. When a second maid proves unsatisfactory, Christine convinces Madame Lancelin to hire Lea. Ecstatic at being together, the two girls share an attic bedroom and eventually begin a mutually agreeable incestuous relationship.

Blowing a fuse

One evening, Madame tells Christine that the Lancelin family, which includes Monsieur, a lawyer (Jean-Gabriel Nordmann), and Mademoiselle Genevieve (Marie Donnio), who seems about Christine's age, will be out for the evening, dining with an uncle. The sisters are left alone to finish their chores. Lea's ironing in the attic blows a fuse, leaving the upper part of the house dark. The sisters, tired, go to bed and make love. Unexpectedly, Madame and Mademoiselle Lancelin return. Terrified, Christine descends the stairs to meet them, warning Lea to stay in their room. Suspicious, Madame Lancelin notices Lea's dress and bare feet and asks questions. Angry

words are exchanged, and Christine unleashes her murderous, heinous rage. Stunned but loyal, Lea says she will tell the police she helped with the unimaginably brutal killings. The pair retreat to their

room, where they are discovered by Monsieur and the police.

Christine is hysterical while in prison, screaming for Lea non-stop. When a guard takes it upon herself to reunite them, Christine's

sexually aggressive embraces compel a final separation. She never uttered her sister's name again.

Denis uses remarkable restraint in retelling the story, letting the emotions come through neat, like a caffeine jolt from a double espresso. He does not sensationalize the sex or the killings, nor does he judge the sisters or their victims. No musical score cues the viewer's feelings. The explosive climax is shocking even though anticipated. The performances are superb. Testud's Christine asks for no pity, yet is a sympathetic if difficult-to-like character. Parmentier's Lea has a scrubbed innocence that is charming.

Christine was convicted and sentenced to be guillotined, but was given life in prison, where she died. Lea served a four-year term and is still alive, aged 88. A stroke has left her unable to speak. Program notes suggest that today Christine would be diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, and her condition treated with medication. Certainly, the simplistic earlier explanations provided by left-wing French intellectuals do not appear to hold water, minimizing as they do an individual's personality and unique reaction to circumstances.

Whatever the reasons behind this horrifying crime, the images and emotions generated by *Murderous Maids* will stay with viewers long after they have left the theatre. ▼

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— Richard Labonte, *Book Marks*, April 2002

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— Jason Dorn, *SF Weekly*

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He's straight, and he sings cabaret?

Raging heterosexual Tom Wopat to play the Plush Room

by Richard Dodds

Tom Wopat, a raging heterosexual, knows he's something of an anomaly on the cabaret scene.

"We did a gig in New York at a place called Arci's, and we had this joke," Wopat said. "We said we're going to draw straws to see what guy in the band is going to be gay, because we couldn't all be straight."

In the years since *The Dukes of Hazzard* "tore any shred of legitimacy to shreds," the beefy actor has spent much of the time on stage. He credits his Broadway run opposite Bernadette Peters in *Annie Get Your Gun* with restoring some of his legitimacy, and a CD of standards titled *The Still of the Night* with further enhancing his post-Luke Duke reputation.

He considers his upcoming engagement at the Plush Room (June 4-9) as part of the repackaging process. "Obviously, this is a

huge departure for me," Wopat said from his log-cabin retreat in New Jersey. "We're looking forward to the future in the expectation that when we play these rooms, we'll get the reviewers there and establish a little bit of a presence."

On the CD, Wopat displays a warm voice of husky appeal as he lopes through saloon-style arrangements of such classics as *Where or When, Makin' Whoopee*, and *For All We Know*.

"It's kind of fallen through the cracks," Wopat said of the CD. "But wherever I perform, and I just worked with the Indianapolis Symphony, we sell 50, 60 copies a night. We'll have a couple of copies at the Plush Room, I suspect."

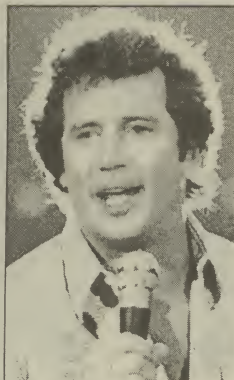
After his San Francisco engagement, Wopat will rejoin the cast of *The Guys* in New York. Performed by rotating casts of celebrities, the

off-Broadway show was created from the eulogies prepared for the firefighters who died at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11.

"It's been a really cathartic and moving experience," Wopat said. "It's also the first non-musical I've done in New York, so I've been getting some attention from movie-casting people, which I've never had before."

Later in the year, he may step into the revival of *42nd Street* as the Broadway director hoping for a comeback. "It gives them a name to put on the marquee," he said, "but it's not a Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, by any stretch of the imagination."

But it was a Rodgers and Hammerstein that nearly undid Wopat's musical-comedy career. The year was 1986, and Wopat was hoping that a Washington, DC production of *Carousel* would



Wopat: bringing a bit of presence.

make the leap to Broadway. The theater critic for *The Washington Post* thought otherwise.

"He tore me a new asshole, man," Wopat said. "He was as mean as shit. Two years after that

debacle, I got a call to do a little off-Broadway show called *Olympus on My Mind*. I went into this thing for no money, and it was just a blast and kind of redeeming. I was back on my feet with musical comedy."

Wopat was beginning to make a name for himself in musical comedy when that fateful call came in 1979 offering him a role in a new series titled *The Dukes of Hazzard*. It was a six-year detour, and Wopat is still working to get back to the main stem.

"If I was to sit here and say what a shitty deal it was for me to have that part and ruin my musical-comedy career, that would be a little bit sour grape-ish," Wopat said. "I think I would have been successful anyway. I'm perfectly suited to many of those musical comedy roles. There are a lot of gay guys in musical comedy, but there are very few who can really play a straight guy."

To hear this Wisconsin farm boy-turned-cabaret singer, call 885-2800 for reservations.

Twist and shout

Two weeks ago, in this space, the 2002-03 Pride season at the New Conservatory Theatre Center was announced. This week, it's a look at the co-productions that will fill NCTC's pocket-sized Theatre III until the end of the year.

For the first time, these co-productions have been pulled together to create what NCTC is calling its *Twist and Shout* theater festival. After the first of the year, Theatre III will then become the venue for the theater's returning *In Concert* series.

"There have been so many more inquiries from nomad theater companies or folks wanting to do a co-production," NCTC Artistic Director Ed Decker said. "In order to maximize the impact of the co-productions, instead of sprinkling them throughout the season, we decided to organize them into a festival, and allow subscribers an option to purchase as a series."

Local "underground" performers Ken Taylor and Andrew Barrett will present *The Ken and Andy Show* (July 24-Aug. 11), described as a metaphysical comedy for adults only.

My Dinner with Lunatique Fantastique (Aug. 21-Sept. 15) will showcase Liebe Wetzel's found-object puppetry in a new work built around the anthropomorphized objects at a dinner table.

Performance artist Tim Miller returns with *Body Blows* (Sept. 19-29), a one-man look at his life and times.

Noel Alunit, another performance artist in a return engagement, will offer his variation on a beauty pageant in *Master of the (Miss) Universe* (Oct. 9-27).

Nicky Silver's wicked body-image comedy *The Food Chain* (Nov. 6-Dec. 1) represents the debut of the Unidentified Theatre Company headed by director Christopher Jenkins.

The Neo-Dandy Cabaret (Dec. 5-29) is director Keith Hennessy's queer variation on the traditional variety show.

For more information, call 861-8972.

Short scenes

Berkeley Rep is cranking up its night/OUT program for LGBT audiences with a big do on June

next page ►

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The mystic producer

Getting personal with 'Mystic Masseur's Ismail Merchant

by Brandon Judell

When I first phoned up Bombay-born Ismail Merchant, 64, he was in Paris producing the latest film of his reputed lover James Ivory. *Le Divorce*, which is based on Diane Johnson's acclaimed novel, stars Anouk Aimée, Isabelle Hupert, and Colin Firth. You know, the Merchant from Merchant Ivory. James Ivory. The folks who gave us *Remains of the Day*, *Howards End*, *Maurice*, and *A Room with a View*.

Well, Mr. Merchant every once in a while writes a cookbook (*Ismail Merchant's Passionate Meals: The New Indian Cuisine for Fearless Cooks and Adventurous Eaters*) and also directs. Sometimes to hurrahs, as with his sensational *In Custody*, a comic exploration of the life of a famous Urdu poet who's about to spout his final ode. And sometimes less successfully, as with *The Proprietor*, in which Jeanne Moreau is haunted by the ghost of her dressmaking mom, who was killed by the Nazis.

In his current release, *The Mystic Masseur*, which is based upon a novel by last year's Pulitzer Prize-winning author V.S. Naipaul, he explores the life of an impoverished Indian living in Trinidad. The ever-ambitious Ganesh (Asif Mandvi) begins as a failed schoolteacher, finds success as a masseur and self-published author, and then starts raking in the cash as a healer, politician, and taxi-fleet owner before society swats him down a bit.

Reputation-wise, nobody swats down Merchant. So to stay in the producer/director's good graces, I thought I better include one question about his current film on our transatlantic phone call. "Why adapt this book?" I asked with great interest in my voice.

"It was Naipaul's most emotionally accessible novel," Merchant replied. "His later books became more cynical. Much of his writing — *A House for Mr. Biswas*, this one, *A Flag on the Island*, and

Miguel Street — are set in Trinidad. This one, though, is so much more enchanting, revealing, and full of life."

He's right, actually. *The Mystic Masseur* is a great read, as is Naipaul's *Half a Life*. But let's get to the homo stuff.

Merchant is a man with many identities — Indian, Muslim, gay, American, and probably British. Is he ever driven crazy by all these distinct and at times conflicting identities? Does he ever wonder who he really is?

"I never do," Merchant insisted. "I have had many relationships, including ones with women. And I've had many relationships in different countries. As a person who's lived 40 years in different places, you always do. I still maintain those friendships all over, and I still enjoy those friendships."

"Some people, when emotionally disturbed or when something happens in their lives, they sort of feel, 'My God, what is my identity? Where am I?' I don't think like that. If I come to London, I have these friends with whom I'm passionately involved. In my little America, the same thing. In India, the same. Or in Paris. I never sort of think that I'm ever in a period of finding one's identity."

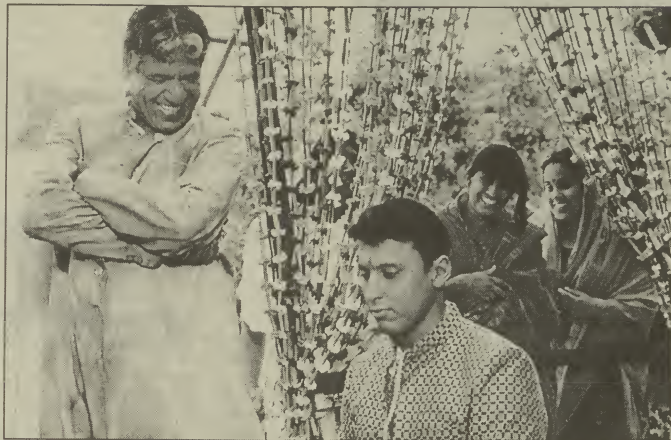
Women, huh? "Any children?" I joke. "Any children that you know about?"

"I have children," Merchant responded.

"You do have children! How many?"

"I can't tell you," he laughed.

Taken back and in an unfocused state, I asked one last question before Merchant had to get back to work: "You once said of yourself and James Ivory, 'We are



The Mystic Masseur is based on V.S. Naipaul's "most emotionally accessible novel," says Merchant.

the ones who started what independent cinema is all about. We are an independent company. I feel that if a book is written about cinema, Merchant Ivory will have its own chapter." It seems that chapter will continue to be enlarged. There seems to still be lots more to come from you two. Do you feel that? Or do you ever think you're going to retire?"

"No, retirement isn't in my future. Retirement I don't think about. I think that one should just continue till one drops dead," he laughed, then hung up.

Ivory set?

Merchant came to New York City to promote his film a few weeks ago, and I was able to follow up on whether the most famous gay couple in celluloid history was still a couple.

In a Central Park West hotel room, I asked of Merchant: "I don't know if you want to go into this, but are you and Mr. Ivory just friends now?"

"We've been friends for a long time," he insisted. "We're not lovers in that sense that you talk about lovers. We've been friends

for a long time. We're good friends, yes."

"So like any marriage, after a few decades, you've become friends?"

"Marriage! What is marriage? When you have a romantic relationship, that is marriage. But we've not had that. We've always been friends. For a long time. From the beginning."

From the beginning?

"People always want to say, 'You are this, or you are that.' I don't want to sort of be put in a box," Merchant said. "Because you know everything there is in life. Whatever comes in your way as a partner,

marriage, divorce, all of that, you just go to it. And I feel sometimes that it's wonderful to just have a kind of mysterious approach to things, as opposed to sort of saying, 'Oh, yeah, this is it!' so the mystery is lost. I think that one should keep the mystery, and let people sort of have their own interpretation of things."

Does Merchant's "mystery" mean he's available for dates to the readers of this publication?

"Available?" Merchant chuckled. "I'm a man of all seasons. Say that." ▼

Backstage

◀ previous page

13. Figuring Caryl Churchill's sexually fluid *Cloud 9* would be a good choice for further outreach, the post-performance reception will include a DJ and dance-club lighting. "It will be fabulous," promises Susie Falk of Berkeley Rep. For more information, call (510) 647-2918.

Another Caryl Churchill play, *Top Girls*, is also getting a local revival. Performances begin May 30 at Exit Stage Left under the aus-

pices of the Crowded Fire Theatre Company. The 1982 play examines the challenges of being a woman in power. Call 675-5995.

The songs of John Kander and Fred Ebb make up the revue *The World Goes 'Round*, opening May 29 at New Conservatory Theatre Center. Part of the *In Concert* series, the show draws from such Kander and Ebb musicals as *Cabaret*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, and *Chicago*. Call 861-8972. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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Teenage trauma

by Deborah Peifer

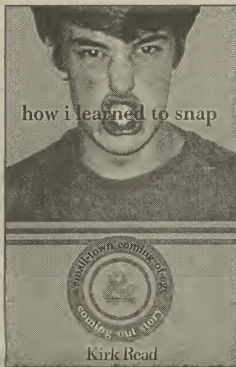
Kirk Read is a very fine writer who managed to survive growing up very gay in a small Southern town that preached hatred rather than tolerance of difference. *How I Learned to Snap: a Small-Town Coming-of-Age Coming-Out Story* (Hill Street, \$22.95) is Read's tale of a journey through the horrors of adolescence, told with scathing wit. His disdain for his sophomore biology teacher, for example, begins with the coach's taste in clothing, "which was way khaki. I was in my tie dye-rock band-baggy pants phase. So, even with our many other differences aside, we were engaged in a bitter war of textiles."



Book Report

the religious and political strife in England at the dawn of the 17th century, as Puritans and Anglicans vied for doctrinal dominance and state power.

The Geneva Bible, popular among Puritans, included marginalia that seemed to refute the notion of the divine right of kings, a concept much loved by James. A new Bible, absent the troubling challenges to his divine authority, was just the thing to cement James' claim to be God's anointed. But McGrath goes further back than that. Why an English Bible? Because English as a language was gaining respect, and a translation into that tongue was no longer seen as debasing to Scriptures. And further back — why a published Bible at all? Because literacy was on the rise, and, thanks to a very clever fellow named Gutenberg, books were now available for somewhat less than a king's ransom.



The hero of the piece is not Read but his mother, an extraordinary woman I wish had been mine. She figures out that Read is gay long before he does, and immediately "begins preparing the way" for him. From the moment of her realization, "she corrected Dad when he used antigay epithets. She called him into the bedroom when there were gay people on Oprah or Donahue."

She certainly has my vote for mom of the year. *How I Learned to Snap* is a coming-out tale that takes place in the heady days of gay liberation (Read was born in 1973, four years after Stonewall). Thanks to his extraordinary mother, friends who stood by him, and his own remarkable courage, Read came out with style and grace.

James at 400

I can't think of a nonfiction book I've enjoyed more this year than *In the Beginning: The Story of the King James Bible and How It Changed a Nation, a Language, and a Culture* (by Alister E. McGrath; Doubleday, \$24.95). Don't think for a moment that this fascinating history is designed to appeal merely to those of the churchly persuasion. I hold my credentials as an atheist with pride, and before that I was Roman Catholic, thereby providing a double negative as far as interest in the great Protestant Bible is concerned.

McGrath's project, however, is broader and deeper than mere piety or valorization. Seeing the King James Bible as a defining moment in the history of both England and the English language, McGrath explores the social, scientific and political changes in Europe that led to its production. He explains that James I authorized a new English translation of the Bible because of

language worthy of great writers and profound thoughts. It made me smarter, more informed, and entertained all the way through.

Kudos all around

Congratulations to Carolyn Gage (*Monologues and Scenes for Lesbian Actors*), this year's recipient of the Janine C. Rae Award for the Advancement of Women's Culture from the National Women's Music Festival.

Considering that previous recipients are such notables as Holly Near, Margaret Cammermeyer, Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, and Audre Lorde, this is quite a splendid group in which to be included. A well-deserved honor for a playwright of great artistry.

Founded by the estates of Robert Ferro and Michael Grumley, the Ferro-Grumley Awards recognize excellence and experiment in literary fiction. With a list of past winners that includes such literary lights as Michael Cunningham, Elana Dykewomon, Sarah Schulman, Felice Picano, Dorothy Allison, and Ruthann Robson, this is definitely a situation in which just being nominated is a great honor.

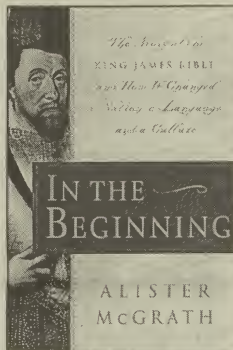
Congratulations, then, to this year's nominees: Emma Donoghue, *Slammerkin*; Achy Obejas, *Days of Awe*; Ann Wadsworth, *Light, Coming Back*; Alexander Chee, *Edinburgh*; David Ebershoff, *The Rose City*; J.T. LeRoy, *The Heart is Deceitful Above All Things*.

Winners will be announced on June 25.

Even events

So the thrill is gone, the bloom is off the rose, and the dread LBD has set in? Trek on down to the Main Library on May 30 at 6:30 p.m. to hear author and counselor Renate Stendhal (*Love's Learning Place: Truth as Aphrodisiac in Women's Long-Term Relationships*) demystify Lesbian Bed Death.

LBD resolved, you can work on the really important summer skills at Cody's (4th Street store, June 9 at 11 a.m.) when Steven Raichlen demonstrates *How to Grill*, including recipes from his newest book, *The Beer Can Chicken Cookbook*. Sounds tasty. ▼



McGrath traces the events leading to James' decision skillfully. Professor of Historical Theology at Oxford, he knows how to write for a general audience without talking down to his reader, or burying that reader in too much arcana. *In the Beginning* is an extraordinary tale of the book that, along with the works of Shakespeare (written at just about the same time as the King James Bible), served to transform English from a workaday dialect into a

MUSIC

Celebrating Pauline



Great American lesbian composer Pauline Oliveros will have her 70th birthday commemorated by a series of concerts at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre Friday and Saturday, May 31-June 1. A pioneer in electronic music, ritual, multimedia, and her trademark accordion, Oliveros has made the Bay Area one of her homes since leaving her native Texas as a teenager in the '50s.

Pianist Sarah Cahill will emcee as well as perform in three concerts where four of Oliveros' ensembles and 50 musicians will play (5/31 at 8 p.m.; 6/1 at 1 p.m. & 8 p.m.; Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St.). On Sunday, June 2, there will be a big potluck picnic in Dolores Park, with a performance of Oliveros' *Grand Buddha Marching Band*. Info: (415) 398-7229. ▼

BOOKS

Save the teenagers

Against pedophilia hysteria

by Liz Highleyman

Harmful to Minors: The Perils of Protecting Children from Sex by Judith Levine; University of Minnesota Press, \$25.95

Given the vitriol surrounding Judith Levine's new book, *Harmful to Minors: The Perils of Protecting Children from Sex*, one might well believe it is an apology for child abuse. Robert Knight of Concerned Women for America called it "every child molester's dream, and every parent's nightmare," while Minnesota representative Tim Pawlenty attempted unsuccessfully to force the University of Minnesota Press to stop its publication.

But Levine, a journalist and essayist who has written widely about sex, gender, and family issues, insists that her book is not about intergenerational sex. "It was my hope that the book would allow parents and other adults to talk realistically about issues of

kids and sexuality." Instead, the controversy itself has become a perfect example of what Levine calls "the sexual politics of fear."

Harmful to Minors examines a broad range of topics including censorship, exaggerated fears about pedophilia and child pornography, abstinence-only sex education, declining access to abortion, AIDS, and sexuality and gender issues. On the latter topic, Levine offers some interesting insights. "Research shows that strong belief in the ideologies of masculinity and femininity makes for bad and unsafe sexual relations," she writes.

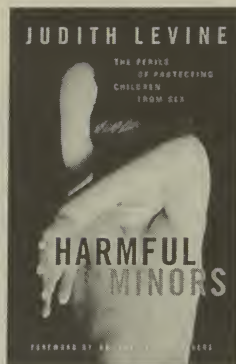
The book is a useful resource, bringing together in one package research results and journalistic reports regarding recent American sex panics and legal maneuverings. Levine looks at the evolution over the past two decades of restrictive legislation concerning sex. In the 1980s and '90s, "saving the children" has become the rallying cry for a host of attempts at social control, from the war on

drugs to anti-gay laws, to efforts to suppress sexually explicit content on the Internet. She also examines growing trends, such as the labeling of typical childhood sexual play as pathology, and the reluctance of adults to have nonsexual physical contact with children for fear of being accused of abuse. The book describes studies showing that sexually explicit images do not harm children, that teens' sexual relationships with adults are not invariably devastating, and that abstinence-only sex education is ineffective.

All grown up

While research can be valuable, common sense may be even more important. Levine proposes that we ask young people about their own experiences, and remember what it was like to be teens ourselves. In fact, Levine's views on age of consent laws are informed by her own relationship with an older man when she was a teenager. "Teens often seek out sex with older people, and they do so for understandable reasons: an older person makes them feel sexy and grown up, protected and special," writes Levine. "Often the sex is better than it would be with a peer who has as little skill as they do. For some teens, a romance with an older person can feel more like salvation than victimization."

Within the gay community, especially, one often hears fond reminiscences of youthful sexual



relationships with adults. For some gay men, a teenage relationship with an older man was their release from a homophobic family and peers, and their introduction to a supportive community. As syndicated columnist Paula Martinac wrote recently in this newspaper, the differences of opinion between gay men and lesbians regarding adult-youth sexuality represent an ongoing rift within the queer community. GLBT groups understandably wish to disassociate themselves from accusations of pedophilia — and correctly point out that the vast majority of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by heterosexual men — but they cannot so easily distance the community from the long history of gay icons who have spoken and written positively about adult-youth relationships.

Levine's key point is respect for young people. "Legally designating a class of people categorically unable to consent to sexual relations is not the best way to protect children, particularly when 'children'

include everyone from birth to 18," she writes. She notes that "most statutory rape prosecutions have to do with conflict within the family over the sexual lives of their children, most often their teen girls or gay boys." Indeed, statutory rape laws are now increasingly taking the place of repealed sodomy laws as a tool for policing the sexuality of gay men. Levine also advocates strongly for young people's privacy, saying that adults must find ways to "celebrate a child's appetites without intrusively participating in their gratification."

The child welfare issue has been all but neglected in the controversy surrounding *Harmful to Minors*. As Levine points out, virtually every sex-related problem, from AIDS to incest, is correlated with poverty. She argues that marginal economic conditions — not pedophiles or pornography — are truly harming young people. Her conclusion that "economic security is necessary for sexual safety" aims at the heart of the Religious Right's agenda.

In short, Levine proposes that we view young people as citizens in the realm of sexuality as in all other realms of life. "The same things that make you a solid member of your third-grade class — cooperation, respect, integrity — also make you a considerate lover, a consistent safe-sex practitioner, a person able to say yes or no to sex, and honor the consent of a partner." ▼

Nothing is clear

by Robert Julian

Everything is Illuminated by Jonathan Safran Foer; Houghton Mifflin, \$24

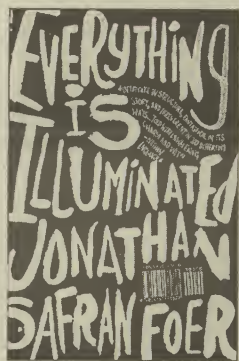
It last happened to me with Dave Eggers. About 100 pages into *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, I tossed the book to the floor. In relatively short order, I came to loathe the author and his narrative voice so strongly I could not finish the book. Unfortunately, with Jonathan Safran Foer's *Everything is Illuminated*, I was assigned to write a review, so the simple solution of tossing the work into the garbage was eliminated. I slogged through all 276 interminable prose pages and am here to tell you what I learned.

1. Like Eggers, Foer has talent as a writer.

2. Foer is capable of creating several distinct narrative voices, in both first and third person, and maintaining them for the length of *Everything is Illuminated*.

3. Foer writes himself into his own work as a character in the novel.

4. Attempting to illuminate 400 years of his family's Eastern European Jewish history, Foer only succeeds in trivializing his subject via overwritten, preposterous fan-



tasies that aspire to the mystical but are really only puerile.

5. Foer simultaneously attempts to tell a contemporary story, create an imaginary history of his familial antecedents, and comment on both stories via fictional letters from one character to another. His *modus operandi* involves alternating among a trio of narrative voices from one chapter to the next.

All these attributes give rise to a novel that is almost unreadable. *Everything is Illuminated* is confusing, extremely self-conscious and self-referential, and thoroughly off-putting. *Caveat emptor*. ▼

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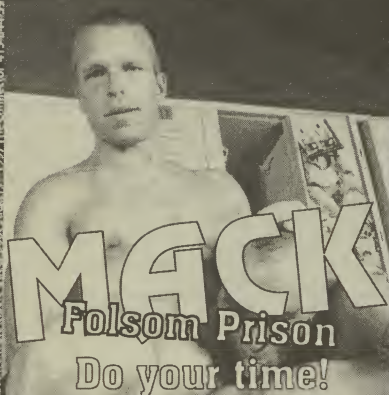
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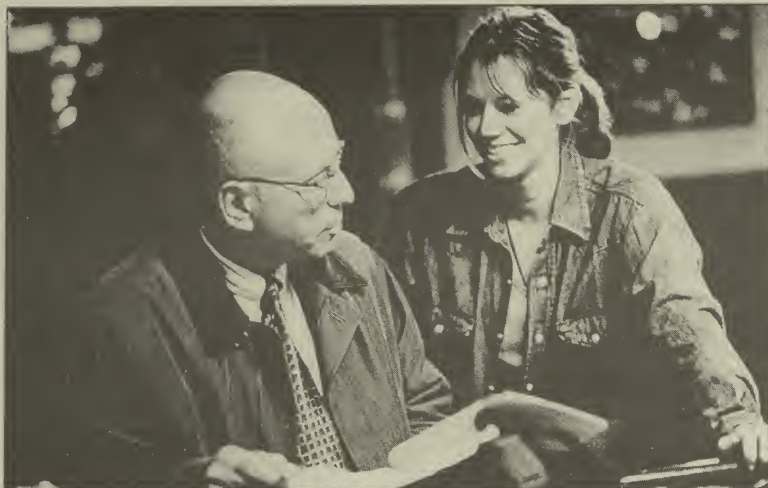


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Director Jill Sprecher on the *Thirteen Conversations About One Thing* set with actor Alan Arkin.

Mugged, then inspired 'Conversations' with director Jill Sprecher

by David Lamble

All it took was a kick in the head — actually, a large bottle across the back of her skull on the first and last day she had dared to wear a dress in New York — to convince Jill Sprecher (and her screenwriting partner, sister Karen) that an inquiry into the nature of happiness might make a terrific movie. The Sprecher sisters' *Thirteen Conversations About One Thing*, opening Friday, resembles an Eric Rohmer film (where the characters talk to prove that they exist), is set in the frame of an Edward Hopper painting (where people are frequently walled off from one another), and is structured along lines envisioned in the philosophy of Soren

Kierkegaard ("He said something to the effect of, 'Life only makes sense when you look at it backwards, but unfortunately we have to live it forwards.' So we thought, 'Let's play with time, let's play God sometimes and know ahead of time what's going to happen to these characters.'")

It's a moody drama of how one man's banana can be another man's peel, dripping with irony, ultimately more Anton Chekov than Todd Solondz, well-served by an ensemble cast, with Matthew McConaughey doing his best work in years, Clea Duval turning in a nuanced performance as a young woman whose trust in life is cruelly tested as a hit-and-run victim, and a sublimely sad/funny character turn by Alan Arkin, who literally finds another man's happiness to be more than he can bear.

But back to the mugging, as Jill Sprecher recalls it. "I had moved from Wisconsin and was sort of like Clea Duval's character in the movie, very open and trusting of people, and after that episode I sort of shut down and started to look over my shoulder. I was told by the brain surgeon, 'Don't ever get hit on the right side of your head again.' The minute he told me that, that's all I did was bump into walls. But a year later, I was on the subway, and a man walked by me and just slapped me on the head, in that same spot. I was really angry, and tears just started coming down my face. One man had seen this happen and, right when I was thinking what jerks people were, he looked up and smiled, kind of reversed all the anger I felt, because I started to think about this guy, possibly having had a terrible day, too — it was that one small human connection." In the film, Amy Irving catches the smile from Alan Arkin.

Sneak attack

In *Thirteen Conversations*, Duval is hit by a car and left dazed and stripped of hope by a guy too respectable to be a suspect. Sitting on her ass in Midtown Manhattan, Sprecher first thought she'd been shot, and then, with fragments of glass and blood sticking in her hair, noticed that her attacker was slightly deranged. Two facts about him caught her eye. "He had on a pair of cutoff shorts, and I swear, a smiley-face button, which now I consider an evil

omen."

A beat in the film contains an echo in life. Sprecher remembers a wiggly adventure, inspiring the scene where Clea Duval's film mother buys a hairpiece for her convalescence. "This was my mother's gift to me. It was sort of like picking out a carpet. First you look through little swatches of hair, and it was kind of like, 'I think my hair was that color,' and then you comb through the catalogue and pick out a hairstyle. I went for a slightly more glamorous style, a little bit like I'm Jaclyn Smith in *Charley's Angels*. I wore a wig twice. I felt like I was in a disguise, so I shaved my head."

Almost as rare as a film inspired by a near-death experience is a film that owes its message to Bertrand Russell. Sprecher says if you're going to steal, you should steal from the best. "Steal from philosophers rather than crib from comic books and current novels. As an undergraduate philosophy student, you start to look for meaning in things, sometimes in things that actually have no meaning. My sister and I wrote this movie not just about my mugging, but from a lot of our experiences in New York, particularly how we had become more insular. Then I read Russell's book *The Conquest of Happiness*, which has a timeless approach about the idea of happiness as something we create within ourselves. There are a lot of obstacles to being happy which have nothing to do with external things like wealth or health. It really is about mind-blocks that we set up in ourselves — envy, boredom, guilt — all things that we put in the way of our own happiness, and therefore can remove ourselves."

Sprecher confesses, like Alan Arkin's misanthrope, to having a tough time wrestling with envy. Maybe it comes from all her years working for peanuts as a film production assistant, or maybe from the fact that she can no longer afford to live in the city of her dreams. "I think it comes from living in a culture where you're always exposed to people around you having much more than you do — it's in our faces, we live in a country where people's salaries are published, even box-office grosses. It's a sad thing, I don't think we can always feel happy for other people unless we're happy with ourselves." ▼

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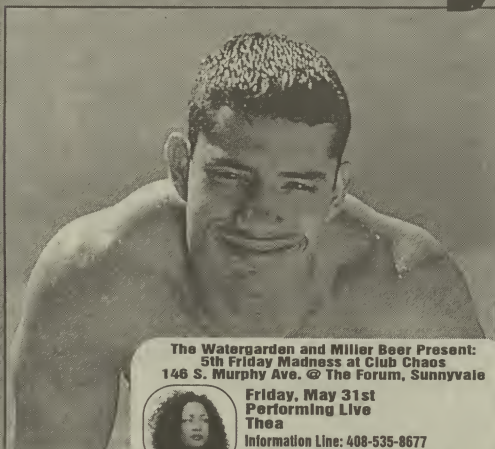
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BOOKS

In Duke's shadow

Gay composer gets scholarly treatment

by Michael McDonagh

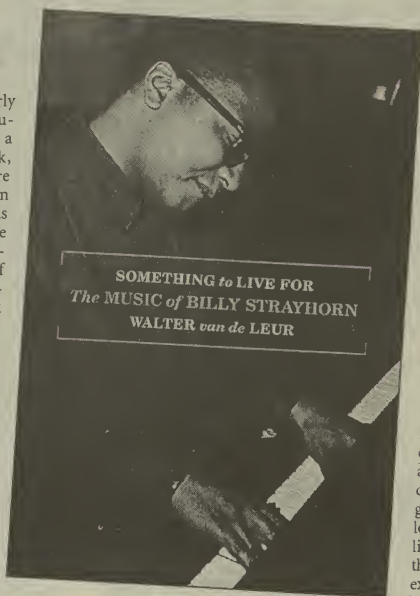
Something To Live For: The Music of Billy Strayhorn, by Walter van de Leur; Oxford University Press, \$35

Billy Strayhorn has never been a household name, and though he wrote for Duke Ellington and his orchestra for nearly 30 years, the older composer has always overshadowed the younger one. His gifts were never fully appreciated during his lifetime, but they are beginning to be. David Hajdu's 1996 bio righted many wrongs, and brought Strayhorn's myriad achievements to light. He may have written jazz standards like "Take the 'A' Train" (1939); "Lush Life" (1933-36),

which was quite successful. Like just about everyone else at the time, Strayhorn listened to the Ellington orchestra's radio broadcasts, and he heard the band in the flesh in his hometown in June 1934. "[Ellington] played 'The Rape of a Rhapsody,' that was the name of the number. Oh, it was wonderful... that's what really got me. He had a chord which I have never discovered, I haven't heard it since, I couldn't figure this chord out. I went home after going to see this show at the Penn Theatre, and I couldn't figure out what was in that chord, it was just wonderful," he recalled. Strayhorn finally got to meet Duke backstage when his orchestra was in town again in 1938. "He had an idea for a lyric," Strayhorn remembered. "He said, 'You go home and write

itive, moved more linearly to its necessary conclusion. He was also, in a sense, a control freak, whose pieces were more or less completely set, on paper. But Strayhorn was indispensable to the band, and he contributed hundreds of uncredited arrangements to its book (Duke's homophobic publicist Joe Morgen had a hand in this), and thereby helped shape its sound in a very big way.

As in any relationship, there were conflicts, and with two complex and sometimes temperamental geniuses, this was unavoidable. Though apparently happy to shoulder many arranging assignments for the band — "even the unscheduled work is behind schedule," he once dryly noted — Strayhorn walked out of a gala party honoring only Ellington, for the work they both did on the troubled 1946 show *Beggar's Holiday*. The '50s were an especially difficult period for both of them. Ellington struggling to keep his band going, and Strayhorn writing ever more personal works which went largely unperformed. But they were also rewarding — the 1956 Rosemary Clooney Colum-



known suites, especially *The Far East Suite* (1963-66).

Though apparently shy, Strayhorn lived the jazz artist lifestyle (cocktails and smokes) to the end, and his untimely death from cancer in 1967, when, one could argue, his star was just beginning to rise, robbed the music world of one of its most gifted and delicate artists. Ellington probably knew and appreciated his gifts better than anyone else. Many believe that his increasingly feverish activity as his own end neared (he died in 1974) was out of grief for the irreparable loss of Sweet Pea. Devotion like that is almost a thing of the past. Van de Leur's book expands our knowledge of both composers and will, I think, like them, reverberate

for many years to come. It's also a work full of impeccable scholarship, with notes galore, and insights in spades. ▼

McDonagh heads the Bay Area Chapter of The Duke Ellington Society, whose next Strayhorn-themed program on June 9, at Ft. Mason Center, will be hosted by composer-bandleader Marcus Shelby.

Ellington probably knew and appreciated Strayhorn's gifts better than anyone else. Many believe that Duke's feverish activity as his own end neared was out of grief for the loss of Sweet Pea.

covered by everyone from Nat "King" Cole and Johnny Hartman to Linda Ronstadt and Donna Summer; "Chelsea Bridge" (1941); and "Day Dream" (1939), but his role as both a composer and arranger for Ellington hasn't been fully ascertained till now.

Dutch musicologist Walter van de Leur has literally gone into the vault to find out who did what and why. And so his book, which took him a decade to research and write, presents a much fuller picture of Strayhorn's musical personality than Hajdu's. The composer certainly was, in African-American playwright Lorraine Hansberry's phrase, young, gifted, black, and gay. Though van de Leur doesn't shy away from that aspect of Strayhorn — he is, if anything, too discreet — he integrates his psychosexual side into who he thinks he was.

Strayhorn was born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1915, to a working-class family, who shortly thereafter moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His father was frequently drunk and vented both verbal and physical abuse on his family, with young Billy an especially vulnerable target. His mother was fortunately protective, and sent him to her in-laws in Hillsborough, North Carolina, where his grandmother, a church organist, encouraged him to express himself at the keyboard. Back home, he studied piano with Charlotte Catlin, whom he found through the local music store. Strayhorn worked as a soda jerk, and in 1936 enrolled at the Pittsburgh Musical Institute, where he studied with Charles Boyd, who died during his term of instruction. "He was so wonderful," Strayhorn told an interviewer in 1962, "that I didn't think there was anyone else there who could teach me, so I didn't stay."

Still, he continued to write songs including the knowing, world-weary "Lush Life," which, with its long, recitative-like verse, is almost like a French *chanson*; and the book, dialogue and music for the revue *Fantastic Rhythm*, for his high school alma mater,

a lyric for this, and I did. I was so thrilled I didn't know what to say."

Ellington invited Strayhorn to visit him in New York; then he and his band embarked on their second European tour, March to May 1939. But just before he left, he "parked" the younger composer in his Harlem house, and told his sister Ruth and son Mercer, "He's going to stay with us." During his absence, Strayhorn began a thorough study of his scores — they were often sketches, and in his idiosyncratic musical shorthand — and almost immediately started arranging for the orchestra. In the fall of the same year, he met his lover, African-American pianist Aaron Bridgers, through Mercer. They subsequently got their own apartment, and lived together 'til Bridgers moved to Paris in 1947.

Band aid

Though van de Leur doesn't soft-pedal Strayhorn's personal life, he's much more interested in the music. He finds, for example, that some of his own work was performed and recorded soon into his tenure with the band. The author also analyzes the similarities and differences between the composers in great detail, and, in the process, clarifies the uniqueness of both. Ellington wrote for the musical abilities and personalities of his phenomenal soloists — saxists like Johnny Hodges, Harry Carney, and Ben Webster — and favored cross-section voicings, in which chord or harmonic changes were assigned to different instruments, yielding uncommon orchestral blends, and continuity was achieved through timbral contrasts. Though van de Leur doesn't go into it here, others have noted that the collaborative give-and-take in the band resembles the working methods of African music, which thrives on communal ideas and improvisation.

While Ellington seemed to be searching for new sounds as sound, Strayhorn apparently heard everything in his head, and his work, though extremely intu-

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OUT & ABOUT

Fri 31

New Conservatory Theatre Center

"The Ritz," Terrence McNally's farce about a straight guy who goes on the lam from the Mafia and hides out in a gay bathhouse. Directed by NCTC Artistic Director Ed Decker. \$18-\$28. 8pm Wed.-Sat; 2pm Sun. Thru June 29. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market St.). Tix/info: 861-8972; ticketweb.com; www.nctcst.org

SF LGBT Community Center

QSF Magazine and Passport Magazine with Troy Productions present "Feel Mighty Real," a swim and beach wear fashion show for men and women, hosted by Matt Heinze from

"Inside City Limits," Donna Sachet, and Supervisor Mark Leno. Featuring recording artist Jeanie Tracy, with a dedication in honor of Sylvester. Music by Producer/DJ Frank Abraham and DJ Gray. \$20 donation. Doors open 7pm; fashion show at 8pm; dancing till midnight. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info/RSVP: 626-5427, ext. 213

Herbst Theatre

Humanities West presents "Ancient Egypt," an ambitious two-part lecture/performance program involving distinguished speakers and live performances both Friday night and all day Saturday. The focus is on the archaeological discoveries of the 19th century and the "Egyptomania" that inspired new work in decorative arts, music

and film. On Friday Soprano Geraldine McMillian will perform excerpts from Verdi's *Aida* and works by 19th century Egyptian composers. \$25 & \$30 per program (\$50 & \$55 both programs). 8-10:15pm Fri; 10am-4pm Sat. 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister). Tix/info: City Box Office; 392-4400; www.humanitieswest.org

The Forum, Sunnyvale

Club Papi Productions presents "Chaos," the South Bay's premiere gay and lesbian dance party, now held in an elegant new space with three dance floors. Featuring Thea Austin live on stage singing her dance hits "Rhythm is a Dancer," "I can't get enough," and "I'm Addicted." On the turntables: DJs Chago, Blackstone and Mike. \$15. 9:30pm-2am. 21+ w/D. 146 S. Murphy St., downtown Sunnyvale. Info: (408) 535-8677; www.papiproductions.com

Club Fab, Guerneville

Precious Productions with Lee Howard Productions presents "Orgasmatron: Liberation of the Self," a place where people of all genders and orientations can come and get adorned in love and sensual delights. Enter through the giant vulva. Experience the immense phallus. Based on the Woody Allen *Sleeper* device, this "Orgasmatron" serves as a vessel, venue, ship and incubator where people can do their thing, whether it be meditate, masturbate, levitate, permeate, make love or simply be. Live music by Wish (ambient tribal rock), plus DJs & drumming, poets, bodyworkers, an altar, and more. \$10 adv; \$15 door. 6pm-2am. 21+ w/D. 16135 Main St., Guerneville. Tix: Good Vibrations, SF. Info: www.precious-productions.com

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoors lovers for a Del Valle hike & swim. Enjoy a leisurely 10 mile hike with a 900-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Sawe-way sign at Market & Dolores streets. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Glama-Rama Salon

"76 Revolutions Per Minute," a film benefit for Jill Reiter's queer '70s 16mm film. Featuring MC Peaches Christ and live performances — inspired by '70's music and pop culture — from Birdie-Bob Watt, Feelings on a Grid, Seth Lorinczi (Quails) and more. D.J. Pinky Ring spins. Refreshments. Key party raffle. Krazy Kraft booths. Video projections. Costumes encouraged. \$7.60 suggested donation. 8pm-12am. 417 South Van Ness Ave. (at 15th St.)

Covered Wagon Saloon

"Glitz," the ultimate glam-rock scene, where everybody is a rock star. Live kick-ass rock music by Blue Period (all about glitter and sin), Mary Magdalene (from LA), and moonlight, plus DJ Danny Mack spinning rock 'n' roll to shake your ass. Instant Glamour Booth hosted by Venus Jumps Orbit. Emceed by Patty O'Furniture. With go-go dancers, paparazzi, and David Bowie and Poison concert ticket and CD giveaways. \$8 (\$5 b4 10pm). 917 Folsom St. (at 5th St.). Info: www.blue-period.com/glitz

Sun 2

NQAF @ The Center

NQAF featured event: Paul Browde & Murray Nossel perform "2 Men Talking," a dramatic dialogue between two schoolmates who started out as adversaries in apartheid South Africa and ended up as dearest friends at the height of the AIDS crisis in New York City. Audience members will be challenged to examine tough issues such as race, AIDS, human rights and sexual diversity as Paul and Murray tell the story of how these issues brought them together but also wedged them apart. \$15. 2 pm. 1800 Market St., 2nd Floor Tix: 865.5611, www.queer-culturalcenter.org

NQAF @ The Center

NQAF presents C.C. Carter & Maiana Minahal in "It's a femme thing." The author of *Body Language*, Carter hypnotizes audiences with performances and writing that empower women to embrace themselves and love themselves for who they are, not what they feel they are supposed to be. She tours on the Women's Music Festival circuit, performing her poetry and prose work, "Living Large In A Shrinking America." She is an adjunct professor at Columbia College in Chicago. Minahal is a queer Filipina American poet in SF who began studying and teaching poetry in 1994 with June Jordan's Poetry for the People collective at UC Berkeley. Her work is included in Jordan's *Poetry for the People*.



Barnes plays at the "GLBT Songwriter Series" at Bazaar Cafe. See Wednesday.

ple: *A Revolutionary Blueprint, Take Out: Queer Writings from Asian and Pacific America*, the CD *Infiltration*, and the upcoming anthologies *Screaming Monkeys* and *inVasion: Asian Sisters Represent*. \$15-20 sliding. 7 pm. 1800 Market (at Octavia). Tix: 865.5611, www.queerculturalcenter.org

NQAF @ SomArts

NQAF presents "Map of a Virtual World: Voices and Visions of Queer Southwest Asian and North African People," a benefit for The Mujadarras Grills, producers of Binti el Nas. Join local artists, activists, and revelers as celebrate the concept of Queer Arabia by subverting language and images, waving original flags, and celebrating a territory without a location, a virtual world. Panel discussion begins at 5pm. Art exhibition begins at 6pm. Open Mike/Performances begins at 7pm. Evening closes with a procession of flags. \$10-\$20; 5-9pm. 934 Brannan @ 8th St Info: www.bintelnas.org.

San Francisco State University

"Queer Disability Conference," a two day event (June 2 & 3) featuring a wide range of participation and presentations by member of the LGBT, intersexed, and disabled communities. Topics include disabled queers in the arts, partners of disabled queers, surviving homophobia in disability services, and HIV and the hemophilia community. See and experience the finest queer disabled performers. Find those hard-to-find resources. A scent-free event. Primary sponsors include SFSU's Disability Programs and Resource Center, Human Sexuality Studies Program, and the Institute on Disability; and the Disabled Women's Alliance, a project of the SF Women's Centers, Inc. Registration: \$70-\$175 for both days. 9:45am-9:30pm Sun; 9:45am-5:30pm Mon. Seven Hills Conference Center, located at the back of the SFSU campus near where Font Blvd. meets Lake Merced Blvd. Info: www.disabledwomen.net/queer

Community Music Center

In concert: John Steiner on piano, performing his original music in lyrical and dynamic style from his new CD "Out Of The Blue." With cellist Anne Lerner-Wright and vocalist Sharon Henderson. Free. 5:30pm. 544 Capp St. Info: 647-6015.

Mon 3

The Stud

Queer Jitterbugs presents "Swing Class Series: Learn Lindy Hop in 4-

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Cockettes as art

Documentaries and retrospectives have a way of fixing people in certain periods of time. When I saw Scrumbley Koldewyn on screen in the smash-hit David Weissman/Bill Weber documentary *The Cockettes*, which just finished its opening run at the Castro, not only did I remark to myself how fabulous he looked as a hippie freak in 1970, I also reminded myself I was seeing only two slices of the man's life — the part beginning in 1970 and ending in 1972 when he was living hand-to-mouth as a core member of that tripped-out performance troupe the Cockettes, for whom he played piano and composed songs, and the contemporary part, presenting Scrumbley as he is now, a handsome, refined older gentleman composer sitting at home in front of his piano, quite dignified, reflecting on his earlier self and camarades. Between the two selves lives another history.



In his pre-lux days: "Scrumbley" Koldewyn as Cockette

The fuller representation of Richard "Scrumbley" Koldewyn, incorporating all the lessons he learned in the years between then and now, can be appreciated on *The Cockettes* original sound score, created by Koldewyn, based on his long years in Bay Area cabaret and music theater. It's worth noting that Koldewyn the trippy hippie commune freak not only survived the Cockettes, but has gone on to claim a modicum of fame for himself.

In the 1970s Scrumbley played for several long-running productions, including a stint at Berkeley Rep. He developed a cabaret style based on a '20s and '30s vernacular. He had a knack for it. It was in his blood. German cabaret interested him. He had a particular fondness for Bertolt Brecht, and was influenced by the 1930 film *Der Blaue Engel* ("The Blue Angel") starring Marlene Dietrich. Eventually he went to Berlin in search of sheet music, and discovered a sort of Renaissance of German cabaret happening.

On countless occasions over the decades, Koldewyn has treated San Francisco audiences to authentic cabaret artistry. In 1979 he founded The Distractions, an a capella new wave group producing harmonies with a flair that landed them a long run at the Chi Chi Club on Broadway in North Beach. In 1984 Koldewyn and two others formed The Jesters, a long-running music project that took them on tour to Europe four times. From that point on, Koldewyn has been more at home in a tux than in beads and a tattered dress.

All this is by way of mentioning that more Cockettes imagery and lore awaits you at the opening reception this Friday, May 31 at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts: "Catching up with the Cockettes," an archival photography exhibition curated by original Cockette Rumi. The show will present works by Robert Altman, Danny Nicoletta, Tommy Kohl, Chet Helms and former Cockette Fayette Hauser. In attendance as hosts will be several members of the Cockettes, no doubt looking as fabulous as they did in 1970. You can take part in a Q&A period and photo-op session with the Cockettes, and even pay tribute to an altar/installation in honor of Cockettes who have passed away. Door prizes will be awarded for "outrageous American wet dream drag," plus there'll be and dancing to the DJ stylings of DJ PussPuss of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Admission is free! Come make Cockettes history all over again. The opening starts at 6 p.m. at 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & S. Van Ness). For details, call 554-0402; surf www.jonsimsctr.org. ▼

Sat 1

NQAF @ The Center

Opening Night Gala: National Queer Arts Festival 2002 (NQAF), with a host of performers and previews of upcoming full-length festival works. On the line-up are Alison Wright, C.C. Carter, Chrystos, Deep Dickollective, DJ Jomez, DJ Puss Puss, Gigi Olavaro-Hormillosa, Jaime Cortez, Keith Hennessy & Circo Zero, Khan Wong, Laurie Toby Edison, Marci Blackman, Marcus Rene Van, Marvin K. White and members of B/GLAM, Maureen Brownsey, Pippi Lovestocking, Sini Anderson, Veronica combs, and cast members of Liquid Fire 2002. Free. 7-11pm. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

QueLACo @ Mission Cultural Center

Opening Reception: QueLACo's 12th Annual Visual Art Exhibition, produced by QueLACo, the Queer Latino/a Arts Festival. Curated by Flavia Maucci. \$5 donation. 7-9pm. 2868 Mission St. (at 24th St.). Info: 273-1041; www.QueLACo.org

Atelier Gallery

Opening reception: "Arimondi: A Retrospective." This champagne and chocolate reception will be the world premiere of this collection from world-renowned fashion, portrait, still-life and erotic photographer Victor Arimondi (1942-2001). After leaving his native Italy in 1961 to attend art school in Stockholm, Arimondi encountered the camera in 1965, as its stellar subject. His natural good looks led him to a hugely successful international modeling career, which in turn led him to get behind the camera as a photographer. He built a stunning portfolio and reputation, with spreads for *I. Magnin*, *Salvatore Ferragamo*, and *Vogue*. His iconic images illustrate his penchant for dramatic light and dynamic drapery, a bit of theatre for the commercial stage. Featuring more than 100 images spanning 30 years of work. Free. Open to the public (reservations required). 5-10pm. 2354 Market St. — Penthouse. RSVP for guest list: 861-8216; www.atelier142.com



"Arimondi: A Retrospective" opens at Atelier Gallery. See Saturday.

weeks." 6:30pm Level 2 Intermediate Queer Lindy Class; 7:30pm Level 1 East Coast to Lindy basics for beginners. No partner or experience needed. \$10. 399 Ninth St. (at Harrison). Info: 305-8242; www.queerjitterbugs.com

QComedy @ The Center

Special NQAF edition of QComedy's "Monday Night Gay Comedy" series, tonight hosted by comic and filmmaker Maureen Brownsey, featuring the top talents of Doug Holsclaw, Heather Gold, Janis Lipton, Johnny "Mr. Handsome" Holiday, Bridget Schwartz and more. \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix: 865.5611, www.queerculturalcenter.org

Tue 4

Lush Lounge

Very Veronica, in which sultry song mistress Veronica Klaus teams up with pianist Tammy Hall and bassist Daniel Fabricant to present a night of Soul Cabaret Every Tuesday in June. \$7. 9pm. 1100 Polk St. (at Post).

Club Eros

"Tantric Masturbation." Bring lube & towel. No charge; donations for gay causes welcome. 7:30-9pm (door opens at 7pm, closes at 7:30pm or when room is full). Info/ground rules: dick at 863-4154; www.tantricismasturbation.net

Wed 5

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

Instituto Familiar de la Raza, Inc. presents "Miss & Mr. Gay Safe Latino 2002," sponsored by Aguila, Futura, Proyecto Contra SIDA Por Vida, Marin AIDS Project, QueLaCo, Clínica Esperanza, Pro Latino San Jose, Latino Encounters, Club Papi, Taquería Can Cun, El Mensajero, Esta Noche, Bench and Bar, Nene Wear, Julio's Records, El Zorape, and Divas. Buses will be available from Instituto Familiar de la Raza's building (2919 Mission St., btwn 25th and 26th St.) at 6pm to take people to the event. Show starts at 7pm. 3301 Lyon St. (Marina District). Info: 647-4141, ext. 305; www.miss-mr.8m.com

NQAF @ Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

NQAF featured event: Joe Goode Performance Group performs "Mythic Montana," the premiere of a new dance work exploring the nature of love through characters in a fictitious small Western town. The piece is built upon the myths of Sysephus, Narcissus, Psyche and Cupid. In Goode's adaptation, Sysephus (danced by Goode) becomes an obsessive compulsive street cleaner, Narcissus a Bible salesman, and Psyche a goth chick who falls for Cupid, a skanky biker played simultaneously by three dancers. Also featuring the return of last season's acclaimed premiere, *What the Body Knows*. \$20, \$25 & \$30. 8pm. Also on June 1, 2 & 5-9. YBCA Theater, 700 Howard St. Tix/info: 978-ARTS (2787); www.yerbabuenarts.org

NQAF @ Brava Theater

NQAF featured event: Brava! for Women in the Arts presents the California premiere of "Kate's Chink-O-Rama," starring comedy sensation Kate Rigg, with David Jung as MC Chink Daddy and featuring the Chink-O-Rama Dancers. This madcap revue uses character comedy, song parody and wise observation to create a hilarious send-up of Asian stereotypes, served in a cultural-activist style. \$24 (\$22 students/seniors). 8pm. Wed.-Sun. thru June 16. 2789 24th St. (at York St.). tix/info: 647-2822; www.brava.org

Bazaar Cafe

"GLBT Songwriter Series," hosted by Garrin Benfield (Nowhere is Brighter) fresh from his smash success at the Great American Music Hall. Tonight's intimate showcase features LA-based singer/songwriter Barnes, who will play his torchy rock n' roll songs at the piano. Barnes toured and recorded as a member of the pop acapella group The Nylons before recording his GLAMA-winning solo debut CD *Loudboy Radio*. No cover (donations welcome). 7pm. 5927 California St. Info: www.garrin.com



Joe Goode Performance Group in *Mythic, Montana* at YBCA. See Wed.

Thu 6

LVA @ GLBT Historical Society

Opening reception: "Hot Pink," an exhibition co-presented by Lesbians in the Visual Arts (LVA) and the GLBT Historical Society. An exhibition conceived, promoted, juried, designed and installed by lesbian artists in their 20s and early 30s. Free. 5:30-8:30pm. 973 Market St., Suite 400 (at 6th St.). Info: 788-6118; www.lesbianarts.org

NQAF @ The Center

NQAF featured event: Cultural Odyssey, in Association with the Queer Cultural Center, presents "Mighty Real," an interdisciplinary performance that chronicles the life of SF disco legend Sylvester. Starring Djola Branner, (a founder of Pomo Afro Homos), Aimee K. Bryant, and Angela Henderson, with Brian Goranson playing multiple roles. Named for the disco diva's best-known song, "Mighty Real" explores the impact the flamboyant entertainer has had on contemporary music and pop culture. The show explores Sylvester's refusal to trade his deeply drag-rooted flamboyant image for a more masculine one during the newly hyper-masculine gay male culture of the 1970s. Sylvester died in 1988 from AIDS, and his struggle is part of this chronicle. "Mighty Real" is part of a series designed by the National Performance Network (NPN). \$15-\$25 sliding. 8pm (Sunday, 7 pm). Thru June 9. 1800 Market, 2nd Floor. Tix/info: 865-5611; queerculturalcenter.org

NQAF @ Jon Sims Center

NQAF event: "The Possibilities of Pluralism," an ongoing task force of local artists-of-color working in conjunction with Sims Center to create multicultural arts productions that embrace a truly queer model of inclusion across racial, ethnic, gender, age, and class boundaries. Panelists include Veronica C. Combs, Jaime Cortez, Reid Gomez, Jadine Louie, Mario Martinez, Marcus Rene Van, and Marvin K. White. \$5. 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). Info: 554-0402

NQAF @ Theatre Artaud

NQAF featured event: counterPULSE and ODC Theater Offsite present Keith Hennessy's "Circo Zero," a fusion of popular and experimental, contemporary and ancient performance forms, utilizing a diverse team of circus and music artists. Collaborating artists in-

clude vocalists Gabriel Todd and Loren Olds, aerialists Amanda Starr, Benn Mendoza, and Susan Voyticky, power tumbler Tyler Downing, hand balancer Jade-blue Eclipse, and composer/DJ Neal Stewart. The vision is to create a magical theater environment in a raw and unused space. SF is home to a paradox that includes countless empty buildings (including theaters and movie houses on Polk, Mission and Geneva streets) and countless low-income artists and citizens who can't afford the spaces that do exist. "Circo Zero" intends to expose, exploit and even celebrate this paradox. \$20. Thu.-Sun. thru July 7 (no perf. June 13-16 & June 30). 8:30pm. 450 Florida St. Tix/info: 863-9834; www.odctheater.com

Most Holy Redeemer Church

The Castro Lions host a "Bingo Benefit." Her Grand Duchess China Silk will serve food, beer and wine and will have many great prizes to raffle. Doors open 5pm; Early Bird game starts at 5:45pm (3 packs @ \$8). First game begins at 6:45pm (12 games @ \$15 for 5 packs). 100 Diamond St. Info: Tom Lucas, 626, 6455.

ODC Theater

"Frames of Light," part one of the series "ArtRisks," in which visual designer Matthew Antaky, in close collaboration with four dance companies (Liss Fain, Huckabay McAllister, Kunst-Stoff, and Stephen Peltan Dance Theater) creates lighting that dramatically structures the perception of the choreography. The lighting becomes an incisive sculptural/architectural element. \$17. Also on June 7 & 8. 8pm. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix: 863-9834; ticketweb.com

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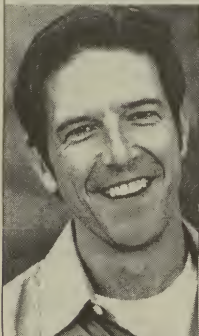
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The Male Form

◀ Arts cover

late 20th Century. His nude males, some erect and some flaccid, stare from their frames calmly, in spite of what appear to be the effects of thalidomide or leprosy.

The larger-scale collages of Hugh Shurley are sexually charged by a teasing suggestion of a striptease by a handsome male model who resembles those old Leyendecker paintings of the artist's boyfriend, the Arrow Shirt Man (who was also known to appear in a shredded football jersey on the cover of the *Saturday Evening Post*). But the overall feeling in Shurley's "Sebastian" is one of loss, and an overlapping of past and present, like the shredded pieces of cardboard and paper that make up the collage itself.

Similar games are played with chronology in the work of Robert Flynt, who overlaps old tintype images of male couples with strangely floating contemporary figures (photographed underwater). In the resulting, haunting chromogenic prints, one can barely distinguish the inhabitants of one era from those of the other.

Master play

More playful is the work of Massachusetts artist John O'Reilly, now in his '70s, who skillfully inserts nude elements into the environment of Old Master paintings. One collage, "Tears," whose art-historical sources are not immediately evident, resembles most closely a Francis Bacon in its too-far-open screaming mouth and misplaced eye. Bacon also looms large over the work of both Gerald Slota and Dan Ragland. Slota distresses his negatives, giving them a linear quality that seems intriguingly out of place in a gelatin silver print photograph, and which also allows him to juxtapose two- and three-dimensional elements to create an image like "Man with Pin in Neck." Ragland's "Boxed Putto," which appears more like a sepia drawing than the mutilated Polaroid print that it is, focuses on an enclosed male figure whose head is so distorted that it appears to be a skull. In other works, like "Descent" and "Almost Gone," the self-portrait



Untitled chromogenic photo, 2001, by Robert Flynt: haunting images.

head practically melts from the paper.

Colombian photographer Oscar Muñoz is represented by three back-lit photographs whose sculptural quality makes them appear to float; their edges, in addition to their surface, glow in a dark corner of the gallery. Focusing on his own body parts during the daily ritual of a shower, he has left a curious white void at the center of each image, from his cupped hands to a point in the center of his chest.

South Korean artist Bonchang Koo has also focused on body

parts. His large-scale, beefy nudes are developed on overlapping pieces of photographic paper in the darkroom and stitched together into a sort of erotic quilt.

Of the better-known photographers in *Everyman*, Bill Jacobson, who studied at the San Francisco Art Institute, is represented by two of his signature color unfocused pieces that evoke the blurry paintings of Gerhard Richter. While not specifically about the effects of AIDS, his work is highly evocative of the social circumstances of the past two decades in San Francisco. The fading away of the details in a figure to "focus" on the essence of it must almost necessarily be read as a metaphor for loss.

Perhaps the most poignant photographs are the output of New York photographer John Dugdale, who lost his sight in 1993 from an AIDS-related illness. On paper the color of blueprints, the photographer works with an 8x10 camera in a 19th-century medium called cyanotypes. Without the use of direct vision, he has his models pose according to his directions, with props of his choosing, proving that sight is a non-essential element of the photography process. "The mind is the essence of your sight," Dugdale has said in an interview. "It's really the mind that sees."

Camerawork's current *Journal*, which is not exactly a catalog of the exhibition, includes a number of writers' views of the male body in photography, including a piece on California boytoy photographer Mel Roberts, by B.A.R. contributor Glen Helfand.

Through June 15 at SF Camerawork, 1246 Folsom St. Call (415) 863-1001 for more information, or visit their website at www.sf-camerawork.org.



Tears #5, 1999, Polaroid montage by John O'Reilly: Old Master environs.

Full disclosure: Art critic Will Shank is a member of the board of directors of SF Camerawork.

That's entertainment?

'Gayboy Gang Bang' goes beyond taste

by John F. Karr

I'm told that *Gayboy Gang Bang* is one of Raging Stallion's biggest-selling movies ever. Shows you what an incendiary title can do for a flick. Yet it's not only grammatically incorrect — it should be *Gay Boy Gangbang* — but a misnomer, at that. A gang-bang, at least as "the adult industry" has used the term, is a voluntary event in which a single bottom hosts multiple tops. What this movie depicts — three thugs

attacking a fiercely resisting victim — is most emphatically a rape. I guess *Gay Boy Gang Rape* was a little too incendiary. Still, if the producers felt a need to disguise the title, you'd think they'd be wary about the very advisability of the product. Bold and fearless, however, they've plummeted beyond questionable taste, to be sunk not only by their movie, but by the self-incrimination offered in a three-minute interview with the director, which is included as an extra on the DVD edition (along with a meager dozen repetitive-pose photos of star Sky Donovan, from an outdoor shoot with no connection to the movie).

The first half-hour of *GBGB* offers no sign of the schizo distress to come. Set against an insinuatingly warm and sexy electronic accompaniment, lovers Mike Nichols and Sky Donovan are seen in extensive foreplay and love's lust, fucking. It's a rhapsodic scene that builds with slow yet assured pace, with the lovers first seen solo. Sky, in the shower, lathers up and stretches the tawny brown ring of his elastic sphincter with a couple of dildos. Mike jacks off in the bedroom. How I adore Mr. Nichols, and not just because he's a brooding, big boy with bleached hair and a solid club of a cock that he hungrily nuzzles between his lips. He's just a deeply turned-on guy. When not sucking his dick, he's licking his armpits; this guy's limber. When the pair come together, they simmer intensely.

But Sky wants more, and goes out to prowl, only to be attacked and raped in a second half-hour scene that's realistically played and constantly abusive. The violence made me squirm, and was uncomfortably believable until the fucking began. These supposedly straight rapists wouldn't spread the victim's butt-cheeks to expose his asshole, nor stretch its lips. They'd just shove it in. Nor would they suddenly have condoms on their cocks. The fact that this was a safe-sex rape, and the realization that the entire event was underscored with music, suddenly confirmed to me that the scene was meant as entertainment. That was seconded by the interview included on the DVD, in which Donovan, in his role as director, and thankfully without offering up the much-abused "I'm-stretching-the-envelope" defense, says, "The goal is to see how perverted I can get. I think it's going to be fun to

watch."

He thought it would be fun to watch.

In a drama, thriller or mystery revolving around a rape, the incident can be safely and momentarily recalled as a pivotal plot device. But for the rape to be the entire plot in itself is another matter altogether: an act of violence being offered up as entertainment. I can see the drama in this video's depiction, I can sense the fear, and cringe at the violence.

Building on the first scene's

sexiness, are these the qualities that make me want to keep masturbating? Above all, am I having fun? Good grief, these people need counseling.

The movie was released under a new Raging Stallion imprint, Golden Boys Video. A company

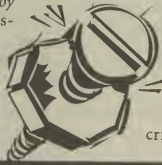
spokesman said this was an attempt to mark the movie as Donovan's product, to distance the parent company from it. The appropriate distance would have been to not have made it. In earlier films, Christopher Rage, Al Parker, and even Chris Ward have creatively explored "perverted" acts without thoughtlessly departing from sexology into pathology. This confused project is a blemish on Raging Stallion's fine record, and I'm embarrassed and ashamed for them. For the record, the 20something rapists are Wesley Morrow, a curly-haired blond who stays hard; JJ Stutz, a gangly twacker who doesn't; and Sire, a black man whom I'd find attractive in other circumstances. And who, in some other director's fantasy film, might be seen being dragged by a rope behind a speeding car. Fun to watch? ▼

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Raging Stallion

Sky Donovan (above) said, "The goal is to see how perverted I can get."



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Irish rhapsody

by Robert Julian

At Swim, Two Boys by Jamie O'Neill; Scribner, \$28

In the realm of contemporary gay fiction, few authors venture into recreations of other eras, and hardly anyone does so in a style that actually aspires to literature. Jamie O'Neill's new novel, *At Swim, Two Boys*, is a remarkable exception. It has been a long time since an author has taken so much time to get it right. O'Neill spent a decade completing this manuscript, and the product establishes what a worthy effort it was. *At Swim, Two Boys* is a remarkable achievement in fiction, a transcendent work that strikes a delicate balance in tone, somewhere between wistful remembrance and inspired determination.

The novel takes place in and around Dublin between 1915 and 1916. Historically, it is a difficult time. Europe is engaged in fighting World War I, and Ireland suffers from internal strife between Catholics and Protestants, and general discontent over British rule. Young Jim Mack is a 16-year-old student who lives at home with his aged aunt and his upwardly mobile yet clueless father. They all live above the family dry goods store, not too far from the slums where Jim's boyhood friend, Doyler, lives with his mother, father, and three younger sisters. Doyler's father is an old Army buddy of Jim's father, although the two men have become estranged in later years.

Differing financial circumstances separate the boys, with Jim beginning college studies while Doyler goes to work picking up and hauling away the offal from local residences. Their friendship is renewed when they both join a flute band taught by a local priest and sponsored by a wealthy Irish nationalist, Eveline MacMurrough. This spinster matriarch lives nearby on a family estate with her nephew, who has just completed a two-year prison sentence in Britain for his homosexuality.

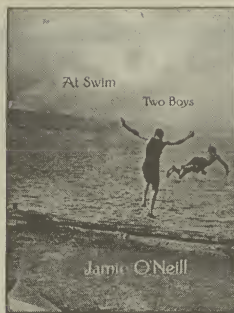
Jim and Doyler begin regular swimming outings as they draw closer to each other and fall in love. The two boys cross paths with the younger MacMurrough in different ways, at different

times, but their lives become entwined against a backdrop of political unrest that ultimately leads to the disastrous 1916 Easter uprising against the British in Dublin. Doyler becomes a member of the rag-tag Irish National Army, and Jim, who loves him dearly, feels the need to follow in his footsteps. Young MacMurrough, who is older and wiser than both Jim and Doyler, serves both of them as only he could.

Deep brogue

O'Neill's prose will be challenging for the American reader. It

recalls the work of James Joyce in its use of Gaelic phrases and the unique structure and syntax of Irish dialect. O'Neill also writes interior monologues for many of his characters, and provides borderline schizophrenic interior discussions between individuals who exist only in the mind of his characters. His writing style can be a bit daunting. It is more difficult than Joyce's style in *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, but not as obtuse as his *Ulysses*. Yet within the first hundred pages, most readers will become accustomed to O'Neill's technique and, by that



time, his loving and insightful treatment of the characters will make it difficult to put this book down.

It has been ages since I delayed

finishing a book because I didn't want to say goodbye to the characters, but this is what happened when I read *At Swim, Two Boys*. The driving forces of the novel are God, duty, and country as they apply to three young Irish gay men who have the misfortune to live in a time and place where open homosexuality leads to prison. How they deal with these issues, and each other, forms the heart and soul of this extraordinary novel. When awards for excellence in fiction are next handed out, Jamie O'Neill will not be going home empty-handed. ▼

Bloody murder

by Jim Piechota

My Loose Thread by Dennis Cooper; Canongate/Grove-Atlantic Books, \$18

After closing the lid on a loosely intertwined five-book series of novels ending with 2000's aptly titled *Period*, Dennis Cooper's new story, *My Loose Thread*, stays firmly rooted in the same bleak terrain as his past works, even though Canongate's publicity material would suggest that this new effort serves to reinvent his career as a novelist — which it doesn't and it won't.

But it is a true-blue Cooper story, weaving his usual template of neglected, gay teenagers mired in drug abuse, rape, prostitution, incest, and self-loathing into a thinly-plotted tapestry of real life. It will appear as a masterpiece of juvenile suffering for those who want to read about bloody boys who beat the crap out of each other, only to end up locked in a passionate embrace (the blood-splattered cover art gives it away).

Cooper's adolescent anarchy features boys whose dicks have been "burned, or else partly cut off." Some are best friends who are strangled, fatally drugged, or raped raw by their own best friends, and some reveal hairless chests ruled with long, crisscrossing scars, self-inflicted during moments of crystalline confusion.

The tale is narrated by Larry, a perpetually distraught, emotionally turbulent teenager whose

mantra is, "I'm really confused." Larry is propositioned at school by an older classmate (and the leader of a Nazi-style group) to kill a student for \$500, and then steal and destroy the boy's notebook. The notebook is actually a diary loaded with the secret confessions of Larry's friends.

Larry takes the bait, since he's got the most secrets to hide. Both he and his 13-year-old brother Jim share the same psychotherapist, the same anti-depressant drugs, and often sneak into bed with each other, though Larry continues to be at war with his homosexuality. Whenever he feels on the verge of a gay act, he punches walls and pounds his friends' faces to a pulp.

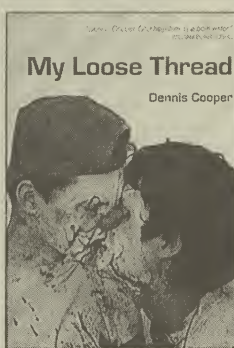
Getting away with all of this is easy because he lives with a self-absorbed, alcoholic mother and a cancer-stricken father who no longer love each other.

Early on, Larry's friend Rand

learns of the brothers' sexual activities, and a violent confrontation ensues, with Larry "accidentally" pummeling him to death. A strained conversation with Rand's mother lets Larry off the hook (she says it was a suicide), though the truth is never really made clear. Friends Pete, Jude, Tran, along with brother Jim, witness Larry's mounting emotional disintegration, though only a few survive it. A Columbine-esque shooting spree leaves more frayed edges as smirking, self-righteous students picnic on their school's front lawn and watch the bloodbath in amusement.

Sections of *My Loose Thread* can get frustratingly muddy and require several re-reads just to grasp (not even to necessarily understand) what is happening and who is doing the talking. But these flaws are merely annoying, and not enough to put the TV on instead.

For readers familiar with



Cooper, Larry is yet another compelling stock character in the author's ultra-violent stable of boys-gone-wrong. Uninitiated readers, however, will find Larry to be a bitter pill to swallow, though agreeing that he's a perfect fit in such a potent story laden with dark baggage and violence.

Fans of doom and gloom will wolf this one down like a midnight snack. Everyone else may want to settle for *Harry Potter 5*. ▼

Someone in particular

Daniel Harris' curious memoir

by Alex Robertson Textor

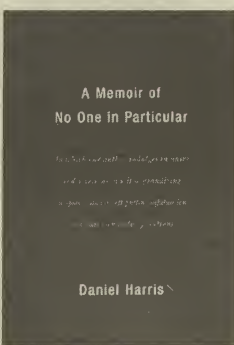
When does a joke become part of that which it calls into humorous consideration? When does a joke lose its status as an external commentary

and merge with the object of its mockery? These questions follow a reading of Daniel Harris' baroque, over-the-top exploration of his "self" in his new book *A Memoir of No One in Particular* (Basic Books, \$23). Harris, familiar to gay audiences since the publication of *The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture* in 1997, is a provocative, compelling and fastidious writer.

Memoir is organized around particular themes — writing, excretion, behavioral forms, and sex. These extremely banal themes are parsed with a level of detail even celebrity biographies don't tend to offer. It is a parodying impulse that produces such a meticulous and self-luxuriating volume of descriptions. In parodying the memoir's careful rendering of each detail, Harris generates an uber-memoir as much as an anti-memoir.

Memoir is not simply a memoir, either anti- or uber-. In places, for example in his musings on the impact of changing public sanitation technologies on bodily functions, Harris writes a social history. This is not an academic history but a selective, intellectual one. Almost completely stripped of footnotes, they are observations, not ammunition for a grander argument.

At its most interesting, *Memoir* witnesses a literal disintegration of its author's body. Harris' body



comes apart, into parts experiencing various sensations: lips being touched, dicks being jacked, chests expanding through vigorous exercise, waistlines expanding despite themselves, features aging. It also witnesses a disintegration of received cultural ideas about how relationships work, about what romantic love means, and about notions of decorum.

Memoir may describe elements of urban gay life, but Harris' own eccentricities render the life chronicled in the book's pages quite peculiar. Perhaps this is part of *Memoir's* appeal, a sign of its particularity despite its goal of quotidian description. Harris' ec-

next page ►

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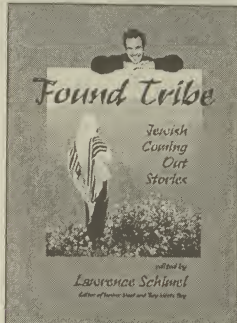
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Being both gay and Jewish

Lawrence Schimel on belonging to two tribes

by Deborah Davis

Can a man be a member of both the gay and Jewish communities? The answer lies in *Found Tribe* (Sherman Asher), a new collection of essays in which gay Jewish men share their experiences. Identity often starts with the labels or names that we choose for ourselves, but we're not always the ones who choose them.



"Who controls what the names are?" asks Lawrence Schimel, *Found Tribe's* editor. "Do you decide? Or does the Jewish or homosexual community say, 'Are you one of us?'"

Schimel, who has published over 50 books, says he wants his

writing to "fight for broader levels," and to "create bridges between cultures and communities." In *Found Tribe*, he hopes to build a bridge between the Jewish and gay communities, and reach out to Jewish gays who feel like they are alone. As Andrew Ramer writes in his essay, "I knew that [gayness] applied to me, and that I was the only Jew in the world to have it."

Ramer is not the only one to feel this way. After the publication of *Found Tribe's* predecessor, *Kosher Meat*, a collection of erotic essays by gay Jews, a reader contacted Schimel and told him that for 40 years he had not practiced Judaism, and that *Kosher Meat* made him feel that he was not alone.

Schimel feels that Jews and gays have a lot in common, minorities who have faced physical and verbal abuse as well as discrimination. In his introduction, he writes, "While many people consider the act of coming out to be restricted to the provenance of sexuality, in the ultra-secular worldview that predominates gay subculture today, coming out as religious is often met with the same prejudice, hostility, misinformation and misunderstanding as declaring one's homosexuality can provoke in the heterosexual mainstream culture."

Gabriel Blau writes in his essay, "Gay friends were often more

upset with my being religious than my straight religious friends were with my being gay." Schimel also writes that gay Jews often feel self-conscious when they see gay pornography titles such as *Fore-skin Quarterly*, which they are left out of because their religion requires circumcision.

Troubled history

Jews do not have a history of welcoming the gay community, and while things have improved, many Jews still do not welcome gays. In Arnie Kantrowitz's essay, he remembers that as an activist in the 1970s, "time after time [as] we demonstrated in the streets and went to City Hall, among our staunchest opponents were members of the Orthodox Jewish community. Hassidim arrived in busloads to testify against our rights."

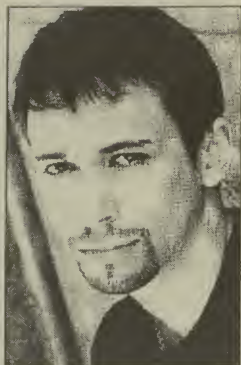
The book's essayists come from a variety of backgrounds, ages, and levels of observance, from Orthodox to secular Jews, from Rabbi Stephen Greenberg (*Trembling Before G-d*) to converts. Essayist Julian Padilla came out to his parents about his gayness and his desire to convert to Judaism at the same time. He writes that while his parents were supportive, his father "was mostly concerned that I would be setting myself up for discrimination and how hard my life would be. My dad had been a Chicano activist, and I think he hoped I would be spared

from so much discrimination."

The gay Jewish community has been silent until now, while the Jewish lesbian community has written quite a few books. Schimel will co-edit *Burning Bush* next year, a collection of essays on sexuality and Judaism by lesbians, bisexuals, and straight women, the first time that Jewish women of all sexual orientations have written together.

Schimel also publishes his own stories, including *His Tongue*, short stories of gay erotica, which is nominated for the Lambda Lit. Award. Published by Frog Ltd., *His Tongue* changes the rules of pornography by writing stimulating stories about safe sex, open relationships, and monogamy. Schimel says, "All sex cultures prioritize tricks as excitement, but we need more roles of happy monogamy. Many have a question of how to mix love with sexual desire. They think, 'I can't make the bed dirty if I share it with the person I'm in love with.' But monogamy can be just as hot or just as exciting. Many men are desperate for a moment of tenderness mixed with sex."

Schimel will keep breaking boundaries. He also writes science



Schimel: breaking down boundaries.

fiction, cookbooks, children's books, and poetry, including the first gay love poetry book published in Spanish. Besides *Burning Bush*, upcoming projects include a book of essays on Judaism and a new children's picture book in Spanish, *Misterio en el Jardín* (*Mystery in the Garden*). His work has been translated into Basque, Catalan, Czech, Dutch, Esperanto, Finnish, French, Galician, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, and Swedish.

Found Tribe's official release date is August, but copies will begin to hit stores at the end of May. *Kosher Meat* and *His Tongue* are currently available in stores. ▼

Out There

◀ page 26

to be in progress, televised by Fox Footy.

Out at Olympic Park in Homebush, the Sydney Aquatic Centre will host the swimming and diving competitions, water polo and the **Esther Williams**-style synchronized events in the championship pools. Twenty teams are already registered for the **Pink Flamingo** relays. Pool billiards events will be held at the Shark Hotel in town. You've got 'til July 31 to register: www.syd-ney2002.org.au.

A real dive

Going diving off the **Great Barrier Reef** in tropical **Queensland**? Before we wetsuited up, a droll Aussie journalist took great pleasure in describing how a local fisherman had reeled in a tiger shark, his first big catch. When its belly was slit open, out tumbled a human head. Then there was the shark caught and brought to a tank in the Sydney Aquarium,



Flightless bird in need of therapy

where, in front of a crowd of tourists and schoolchildren, it discharged a human arm previously belonging to a Bondi surfer.

Don't forget the many varieties of stinging nettles, venomous snakes and spiders resident in the continent-nation. Check, please! But, to use the national catchphrase, "No worries, mate!" We swam, we sailed, we flew the bush in a prop plane, touching down on a dirt landing strip that had to be cleared of wildlife. We survived to make another deadline.

We had a whole lot more **polony**, as they say in Perth, to

offer about Australia. Yes, the bathwater does go down the drain counterclockwise. Yes, they not only drive on the wrong side, they walk on the wrong side, too, forcing Out There to do many a side-walk dance. We'd luv to go on about **the scary cassowary** we saw stuffed in the Melbourne Museum (flightless, if cornered it claws your guts out), or other types of wildlife at that city's **Laird Hotel**, "where men meet men." Thanks to our pilot at **Reefwatch** who was also a surfer, and the surfer who was our Out-back guide who was also a champion bull-rider and punk-rock local star. Thank you for the joyride to **Harley Davidson Tours**, a great fockin' way to see Melb'n, even with two queens in the sidecar, and OT holding on for dear life on back. ▼

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Daniel Harris

◀ previous page

centricities also provide a distance that renders his observations and descriptions occasionally exotic, despite covering ground common to many urban gay men.

Spankless

Memoir is a short, witty book, the kind of book that big American publishing houses don't often publish. Americans need more books like this one, in which readers are invited in to quietly enjoy a writer's intelligence, and not be spanked or made to feel somehow deficient in the process.

Nonetheless, some of Harris'

own biases weaken his arguments. Early in *Memoir*, he writes that "feminism has taught... that the pleasure of submission is, on ideological grounds, inadmissible." Perhaps Harris has somehow failed to encounter the many versions of "feminism" that see no contradiction between sexual submission and feminist politics. More likely, he has chosen to ignore them.

Similarly, strewn throughout *Memoir* is an antipathy to "post-modernism," never elaborated much beyond the charge of turgidity or some other rhetorical deficiency. "Postmodernism" is Harris' enemy. While it's easy to infer why his dislike runs so deeply, Harris' lashings-out are

hollow.

This is especially the case given his concluding observations on the failures of modernism: Harris ends with a few notes observing his own failure to deny necessity, accident, and destiny recognition in his ongoing life. The refusal of vulnerability to the accidental, the triumph of volition over destiny, the dismissal of necessity in favor of an embrace of artifice and pleasure are all primary projects of Modernism.

Memoir laments the collapse of such fictions. Harris, like the post-modernists he rejects, offers no foundation for their recovery. Instead, he offers his body and his habits in a satisfying and at turns discomfiting book. ▼

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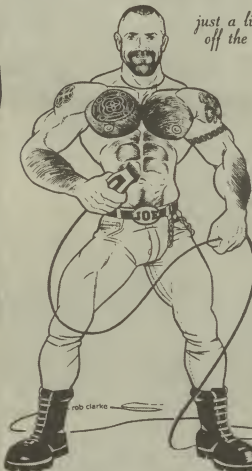


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Meet the IML 2002 winners (from left): Int'l Mr. Boot Black Michael Lanzini; 1st runner-up Borisz Mos; IML 2002 Stephen Weber; and 2nd runner-up Herb Kaylor. They competed in Chicago last Sunday, May 26.

Weber wins in Chicago!

Judges choose Texan as IML 2002

by Mister Marcus

Stephen Weber of Dallas, Texas prevailed over 65 other hopefuls at the International Mr. Leather 2002 contest in Chicago last Sunday, May 26 at the Congress Theater. Thousands of the leather faithful flocked to the Windy City to once again celebrate their lifestyles and to gather at the plush Hyatt Chicago Hotel. The crush of leather people taxed every resource of the Hyatt staff and the overflow was obliged to lodge at a nearby hotel.

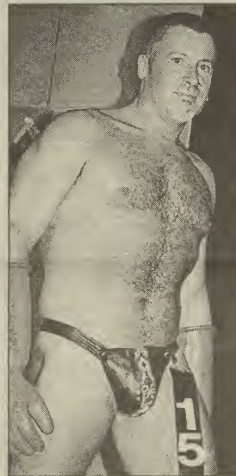
Some 66 leather men from the U.S., Canada and Europe faced judges Brian Dawson, Wayne Nesbitt, Steve Lenius, Pat Baillie, Patti Brown, Hervé Bernard, Jerry Acosta. Stefan Mueller and yours truly in a grueling 18 hours of interviews on Friday and Saturday followed by the Pecs and Personalities portion on Saturday night. The combined scores of those two appearances determined the 20 semi-finalists.

The 20 men who made the "cut" were: Scott Briscoe (Phoenix), Scott Brogan (San Francisco), Jason Campbell (San Jose), Bill Dearsley (Toronto), Tom Dickerson (San Diego), Rod Freier (Salt Lake City), Andy Hewlett (London), Peter Jackson (San Francisco), Rodger Jensen (Guernville, CA), Alexander

Katzer (Munich, Germany). Also Herb Kaylor (Washington, DC), Maurizio Albanese (Italy), Borisz Mos (Rotterdam, Holland), Paul O'Rourke (Saugatuck, MI), Dean Ogren (Chicago), Andre Patry (Montreal), Frank Perko (Cincinnati), Shawn Porter (Indianapolis), Udo Reichelt (Berlin), and Stephen Weber (Dallas). The judges and the contestants did their homework, and the interview sessions were spirited with frequent outbursts of laughter.

The Chicago Hyatt is a magnificent hotel with two tall towers and numerous underground facilities. The Leather Mart this year was a virtual leather paradise, and the crowds were elbow to elbow all weekend. Like every other hotel where IML takes over, the bars and restaurants were jammed to capacity, with parties on every floor in both towers, so it was your own fault if you didn't have fun! The Chicago bars and restaurants were strained to capacity with the leather and bear communities mixing amiably throughout.

Sunday dawned sunny and bright with some people just getting in from a night of partying. By 1500, the contestants were en route to the Congress Theatre for rehearsals and staging. Bets were being placed on contestant favorites and 14 bootblacks roamed the premises vying for the Inter-



Scott Briscoe, Mr. Padlock Leather of Phoenix, was another crowd-pleaser at IML in the jock competition.

national Boot Black title. The Hyatt staff was extremely courteous, helpful and eager to please. The non-leather guests were as nonchalant as any you'd find in a similar venue in San Francisco.

Busload after busload trekked to the Congress Theatre on Sunday afternoon. The aging parthenon quickly filled up as wave after wave of leather-clad

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Saturday, June 1

Retrospective photo show of the magnificent works in color and B&W by the late Victor Arimondi at Atelier Gallery (2354 Market St. in the Penthouse), from 1700-2200 hours. Victor was very leather friendly and his major opus proves that!

Sunday, June 2

Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt's birthday (but which one?) is today and the party is at Daddy's, but at my deadline, no details were forthcoming.

Saturday, June 8

Northern California Leather Sir and Boy contests (replacing Drummer & Boy). Winners go to Florida in October.

Leather Community Town Meeting at the LGBT Center, at 1500 hours, to discuss the leather contingent's participation in the Pride Parade.

Tuesday, June 11

Bondage Buddies gather at 933 Harrison for all that kinky stuff you love. Doors open 2000-2300. There's a \$10 admission fee. For more details call 777-HEAD.

Wednesday, June 12

We're still at 933 Harrison (Pig City) for Golden Shower Buddies. Wash your bruises away from last night! Doors open 2000-2300. \$10 admission fee. Call 777-HEAD.

Weekend, June 14-17

Southeast Leather Fest in Atlanta Georgia, with scads of events including SouthEast Leather Sir & Boy contests. Details forthcoming.

In Fort Lauderdale, it's Florida Leather Unity weekend featuring the 2nd Annual Ms. Sunshine State Leather contest and the Florida Leather Sir/Boy competition. More details later.

POLKSTRASSE

'Wild Animals' on Polk

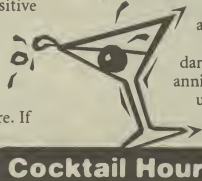
by Sweet Lips

I haven't read it yet, but people are starting to talk about a new book out from Green Candy Press that deals with gay life on Polk Street over the last couple of decades, and I can assure you every queen in the Tenderloin is nervous they'll be exposed! I'm not sure if it's fiction or what, but the book is by Kevin Bentley and it's titled *Wild Animals I Have Known*, which is exactly what I would have entitled the story of my life! It's subtitled *Polk Street Diaries and After*, and the entries start in 1977, leading up to 1996, which means that the "characters" in the book (who remind me of several people I've known) start off by bar-crawling on Polk Street during the height of its decadence and fun. They do in the book what all the gay boys did in those days, which was party too much.

Believe it or not, we still like to party on Polk Street, and the next big bash coming up is one you won't want to miss, and which you won't read about anywhere else but here: I'm referring to Gladys Bumps' 60th birthday at Club Rendez-Vous on June 1, starting at 6 p.m., with a show at 8 p.m. hosted by reigning SF Empress Barbie La Choy. There will be a 50/50 raffle to benefit the Positive Resource Center, plus hors d'oeuvres catered by fabulous Chef Dennis Tyler, 60-cent draft beer, party favors and more. If you need more information, call the club at 309-CLUB. Also, don't forget that the sexy Men of Exotica perform at the club's "Male Strip Night" on Sunday,



Czarina Gladys Bump, right, cops a feel off Supervisor Mark Leno.



Cocktail Hour

June 2 at 7 p.m.
There's a \$5 cover after 6:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars for Kimo's big 25th anniversary party coming up on Saturday, June 22, starting at 8 p.m. The Mistresses of Ceremonies will be the 25th En-

press, Marlena, and the 36th Empress Chablis. Alas, Kimo will not be doing his Fire Dance! But

there'll be a fantastic midnight buffet catered by Dennis Tyler (he gets around!) And remember that Danny (Legs) Bench walks the plank at Kimo's every Thursday through Sunday afternoon from 2-8 p.m.

Jim at the Cinch is back at work after his operation, and that seems to make Woody happy.

The fabulous Mame of Portland was in town last weekend and looking good. She's recovering well after her stroke — you can't keep a good girl down! ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

fans arrived for the big show. Bill Stadt's crew did not disappoint. Before you knew it 66 hunks were onstage and the competition was on. Tom Stice had no problem as the master of ceremonies and passed through the production with flying colors.

Speeches and appearances in leather and in jocks were alternated as the show clipped along at a good pace, even with two intermissions. Stefan Mueller's farewell speech was only 27 minutes long as he thanked everyone who made his year with the title one to remember. Two heartfelt songs lent additional credibility to his thanks.

After all the scores were handed in to tally masters Jim Raymond and Craig Beardsley, the divine diva C.C. Peniston roused the crowd with some fascinating rhythms. Bedlam erupted in the aisles of the Congress as she belted out some of her hits. At one point she even enlisted outgoing IML Stefan Mueller in an abbreviated duet.

Then the "moment of truth" was at hand. First the International Boot Black was named, with feisty Michael Lanzini of Salt Lake City taking the honors. Then three envelopes were opened for the IML announcement, with Herb Kaylor (Mr. DC Eagle) being named the second runner-up; the first runner-up was the dashing handsome Borisz Mos (Mr. Leather Holland) of Rotterdam; and the International Mr. Leather



IML Executive Producer Chuck Renslow, right, introduces IML 2002 Stephen Weber to the audience at the 2002 contest.

2002 title went to Stephen Weber (Mr. Texas Leather) of Dallas, Texas.

The cheering, screaming and applause was prolonged and intense as Stephen's award was announced. A battalion of photographers descended on the stage to capture the moment. Friends and well-wishers rushed the stage as the new icon was greeted and feted. He and his runner-ups they were limousined to the House of Blues for a victory party and also back to the hotel where hundreds waited to see the three men of the hour.

It was a great show, with great contestants and judges. Bill Stadt gives good IML. No one can say

anything to the contrary.

Oh, there was dish, plenty of it. But that comes next week. The usual weekend marriages and partnering went on, of course. And then there was the news that Dan Azavedo of Dallas may be moving to Portland, Oregon. Some of the losing contestants were extremely bitter and displayed poor sportsmanship about it, but what else is new? Lots of women were on hand. The many past title winners present lent the weekend an air of nostalgia.

The best is yet to come as IML celebrates its 25th birthday next year. The venue moves back to the Palmer House. Time to save your coins and make plans! ▼

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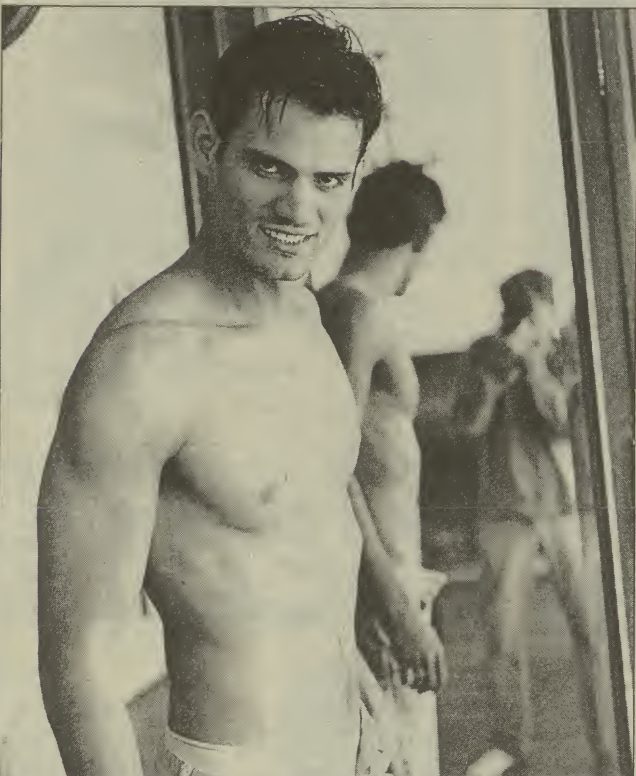
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PARTING GLANCES

Latin Big Arms, Bike 5-12-02 1:30pm
Looking for Latin man who was riding a bike with s/p hair and huge arms on Mothers Day, Sunday 1:30pm on tenth and Mission. Me bid gray vest, red shirt, holding pink paper. ☎ 71782

•4/28 El Rio•
You: Incredibly handsome LM, black shirt, gray pants, standing at left of dance floor. Me: WM, lt br/gr, off-white sweater, jeans, unable to take my eyes off you. Hoping to see your beautiful smile again over dinner? drinks? coffee? ☎ 71778

SFO U: Green P/Up Me: Red Honda
Thursday May 9th. Hey handsome, we were both heading 101 south, got off at SFO. You took inside lane, I took outside. Wanted to give you my #. Bill ☎ 71783

Castro Cala 4/29 PM Check-Out
You, gym bag & lots of eggs. Me, dry-cleaning & fewer eggs. We talked "Dry-Cleaners". Sorry I didn't get your name. Call me if you're single! ☎ 71766

Million 2-One Chance
Meeting on phone line. 5/13-14 SF Hotel pleasant surprise for both of us. You Sid? Berkeley 1/4 Phillipino 30. Me Latin 35 great touch offered your # I said "call me" ment it. ☎ 71798

The Last Tuesday Sucks, You Said
You wanted to wake up with me in your bed. Ok- Let's do it! ☎ 71801

Flying Pig Hood Orna
101 near San Jose, you gray hair & beard. Daddy type. I would like to have dinner with you. Please call. ☎ 71781

Fri 5/3 35 Eureka 11PM
U-short dark hair, red jacket- stunning. Me- older, gr suede jacket, s/p hair would love to know who you are. Please call. ☎ 71765

Powerhouse Fri 5/17 You Fucked
Me, then you sucked me off... Finally we talked for a while. I enjoyed your attitude, as well as the sex. How about more of both? ☎ 71800

Bart Friday May 3rd Approx 5:30PM
Both of us with a friend. Friend and I sitting. Your friend walked to back of train. You stood alone then exited Van Ness. I should have followed. Please call. ☎ 71764

"Van Ness" 4/28 7 PM
California & Van Ness- You: Brown sweater, khakis, glasses, grey hair. Me: brown hair, black fleece vest. We looked back several times. Want to meet? ☎ 71767

101 North, 9/16 Mercedes SUV
You: driving dk SUV with license "Rix". Me: Asian in black volvo. Lost you at 101/280 interchange. Would like to meet you. Interested? Call me. ☎ 71799

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Seeking Younger Man For Love!
You are gdl'g. 18-45, and attracted to older men (I'm 78) for sharing love and good sex. I'm open to being a good daddy or-and master too. ☎ 71768

"Thai Men!"
Love to meet Thai men for a steady dating relationship before I leave for Bangkok in June. GWM- passive 6ft. 165lbs. ☎ 71769

~New 21 Year Old To SF!!!~
Single, attractive, 21 yr old seeks 18-26 yr old athletic muscular guys for 1/2 relationship or casual dating. Romantic inquiries only. ☎ 71770

"Ride Em Cowboy!"
Where do retired bull riders go? Pacific N.W. Country boy at heart 41, low mileage, lean, slender, versatile, fun-loving romantic seeks soul mate, extra points for masculine in shape, mature strong man. Travel, host. ☎ 71771

ISO Any Slender Intelligent/ Guy
GWM, bl, balding, white hair, dark chest hair, big cock, uncult not diseased. NS/ND, no2. Hate ads, over population. Love liberal politics. I'm versatile, prefer top, passion play for sex pot. ☎ 71772

Ride Em Cowboy If You Can Rope
Me, you can ride me. Retired bull rider wants more than 8 second ride. 41 GWM wrangler/ but, goates seeks 2 steppin rebel rouser bunkhouse fun, into mature, strong hung. I travel. Host versatile. HIV+ poz ok. ☎ 71773

Cute Young Russian
Is looking for a cute intelligent European. Russian or Italian preferable. to become really close friends to share interests, sex and other pleasures. Be humorous, smart and under 40. ☎ 71784

18yo Blk Boy Seeks Companion
Someone open minded and friendly to become really close friends to share interests, sex and other pleasures. Be humorous, smart and under 40. ☎ 71784

Q4 Lain ISO Hot Daddy
Moved away from SF and would like to come back and have a tr. I am 5'7", 145#, vgl, bottom. Call me! ☎ 71786

Relationship Oriented Asian
Sweet, romantic, loves good conversation, 30's, 5'10", 143lb, small chest, strong legs (marathoner's body) with nice bubble buns HIV- bottom ISO pleasant looking top man with heart for meaningful relationship. ☎ 71787

Hairy Stud
Me: 39, 170#, 5'9", stache, handsome, muscular hairy chest, 8" cut, fun, sexy, romantic, poz; you: under 40, single, same, bottomboy, GWM, eager to please confident daddy stud, live SF. ☎ 71802

"Italian"
Looking for a hunky, well built guy. Me sweet good looking 5'11", 170, lite hair, eyes blue. ☎ 71804

Mid Century Artist Seeks Romance
Pro GWM into fine art photograph, writing, travel seeks compatible man to explore our world. Educated & discerning with a wicked sense of humor, grand kisser & cuddler seeks healthy poz partner. ☎ 71803

Attractive Latino 35
Dark, light skin, 5'11", 200, non smoker, non drinker, clean shaven would like to meet Latins or Caucasian under 39. Non smokers only, for friendship or maybe more. ☎ 71805

GLM HIV+ Looking 4 GWM HIV+
Me: 36, 5:08 155 husky look, versatile med. built, tattooed. Nice round butt. You: younger, look slim, smooth, versatile 5:08 to 5:10, N/D, no heavy drinkers. No fats or fems. Call me. ☎ 71806

New To The City & Ready To Date
35, 5'7", 150#, Asian/Caucasian mixed guy, clean cut look, HIV-, professional, I.S.O. down to earth, genuine, HIV-, healthy, handsome, professional type for casual dates & possible ltr. ☎ 71807

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Masculine Bottom Needs Horse
Gdiking, masculine dude, 5'10", aub/grn, age 35 discreet, needs horse hung for ongoing action. Into total service, no-nonsense hook ups. HIV+ yeah! ☎ 71741

Your Buddies Think You're Str8
You'd rather watch Ufc than Qaf; rather fist-fight than dance; shave your head, not your pecs; fuck and get fucked hard and rough. Tough, rugged, hairy, skinhead leatherman wants you. ☎ 71742

"Young Asian Butt To Plow!"
Hairless Asian title hole to fuck I.B. Under 25 and ready to take it. ☎ 71743

Italian Guys I Am Honestly
Looking for Italian guys who are attractive or hung for a relationship to party or just to have fun. ☎ 71745

Hung Hispanic Guys Needed
I'm looking for Hispanic guys who are hung 8 or 9 or 10 inches or more, to party, watch videos, suck j.o., etc. ☎ 71744

Gentle Mature Men
WLM 46, 6', 165lbs. ISO gentle senior men who enjoy lots of sensual oral attention & affection. Facial hair, non-buffed A+, but all welcome. Threesomes some kink ok but no gay scene or drugs. ☎ 71746

Black/White X-Rated Fun
GWM 49, 5'11" 180 masculine, fit, well hung and very sexual seeks Black males for videos, j.o. and nude beaches. Palo Alto area. ☎ 71747

•Latins Wanted!•
Expert oral service provided by 2 cocksuckers. Double your pleasure. Must be disease free- in shape and hot. Ricans, Mexicans, Dominican, Cubans, Brazilians A plus! ☎ 71774

Older Men Seniors Retired Suck
Bi WM 49 prefers older men, 60's, 70's- straight or gay Black, White, Latino, Asian. Would you like a blow job? I would love to suck your cock for you. ☎ 71775

ISO Aggressive NBay Leather/Top
U: exp FF, CBT, SM, BD, neg hung built sane. Me: x-milit, neg bottom gives up his bud, intense sessions, equipped river location, experienced only. Let's talk Sir, Robert. ☎ 71776

Older Cigar Smoker
WLM 46, 6', 165lbs. ISO older, affectionate, regular cigar smoker for holding, kissing, & sensual times. Husky, non-gym, loner-lykes A+ not into gay lifestyle, drugs or games. ☎ 71810

"Fuck Me!"
In shape 6'1", 200lb. W/M needs a smooth, slender, top with a large cock to fuck me on a regular basis. ☎ 71777

Oral Sex Buddy
Asian, 50, 5'8", 150#, moustache, cleancut, goodlooking, HIV-, versatile, oral expert seeks GWM or Latin, HIV- for oral sex on regular basis, hairy body A+. ☎ 71788

Discreet, Masculine Guy 4 Hunk
Slenderly muscled, 6'3", fair, attractive 44yo. Wants passionate play with powerfully built, masculine top. Am clean-living, std-free, and want us both to feel great. ☎ 71789

Bear Wants Punk Boy
You are pierced or tattooed, mostly smooth, thin and very oral. I am hairy, big build, 50's 200, 6, in shape and want to touch your hot body. ☎ 71790

Spank Your Butt
Goodlooking toman, 37, 5'11", 170#, work out. Seeks well-built bottom with firm, round butt spanking. Into role-playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71791

Naked On Your Knees
Lean dominant verbal role player 43 needs a lean masculine submissive guy 20 to 40's to follow orders in safe role play fantasy. ☎ 71792

"Greek Top Wanted"
W/M 40, need a good butt busting by very horny men any age race, weight big bear a plus. ☎ 71808

~Asian Paperdoll~
Silky GAM, 5'9", 28w, 20s, long hair, sensuous toes, sweet nipples, cute, in style, enjoy oral sex with endowed single W/M. Love to party in costume and good food. ☎ 71809

Seeking Hung W Male
W Male slim hung hairy cu HIV- 55yrs seeks skim W male hung HIV- 40+ for mutual oral 69+ smooth cock & balls. ☎ 71811

FETISHES

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2nd Slave Follows:
You order, I obey, you sex, I don't, you feed, I drink. Am 59+ healthy + slim + bottom. Phone- ☎ 71793

Pig Daddy
Raunchy cigar smoking leather pig. 45, 5'10", 165. Crew cut lkg for pig boys/cubs for ranch play, leather sex. Any age/race. Can sub for right boy. NWB ☎ 71794

Bound Tormented Made To Serve
Fit solid Oakland WM 55 5'8" 170# seeks sub for bdsm and oral servitude. Activities, limits arranged for mutual satisfaction. Clean, no drugs. ☎ 71795

Man W/ Toe-Ring Loves Barefeet
Lifelong excitement looking at & fantasizing about men's barefeet. Gdiking East Bay GWM, 5'9", trim, tan, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefeet & sensual/safe all over body play. ☎ 71796

Senior Gentleman Is Obedient..
Seeks dominant man to submit to. Experienced, kinky by request, service. Please be demanding. Upper Haight SF. ☎ 71797

Your Throat Is My Nightcap
48 year old hung Oakland-area man needs a mature oral expert to drain me at 11p.m. Be available, honest, easy to reach and either clean shaven or moustache only. ☎ 71812

Hot Leather Kink Action
White leather guy chapped and boot-ed seeks others into same, 30's, 5'9", moustache, trim bld; sht. dk. brn hair cock, ball ass & nipple play. Hit me back. ☎ 71813

WM Needs Hot Facial Cum Bath
Masculine male turns on June 15. seeks male to help me celebrate shooting your load on my face. A+ if you have a friend to join in. ☎ 71814

OTHERS

Straight Feet?
Are you straight, but your girl doesn't like to suck your feet? Let me do it, let me worship your feet very discreet. ☎ 71780

Celestial Orgasm
Ordinary non-hunk GWM 54 HIV- 6', 190# smoker, artist cut fra/p looking for ordinary non-hunk cut GM celestial partner into hugging, kissing, oral finesse spirituality, psychic phenomena. ☎ 71815

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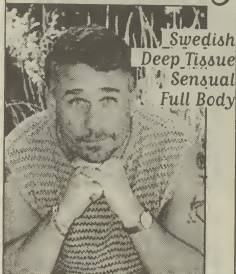
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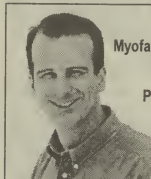
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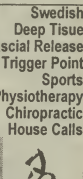
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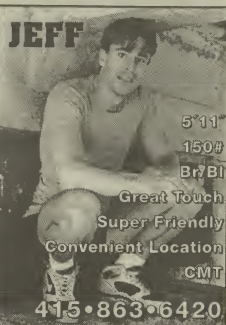
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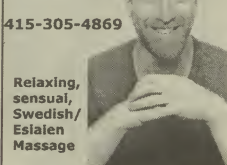
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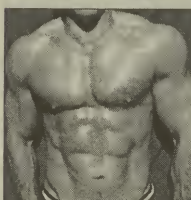
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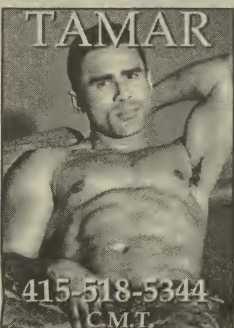
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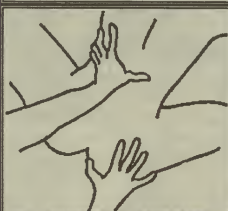
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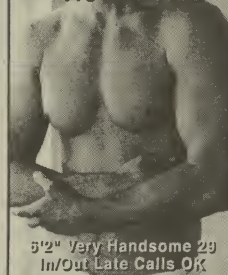
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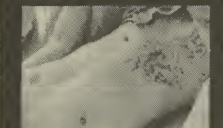
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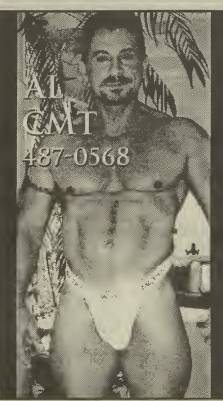
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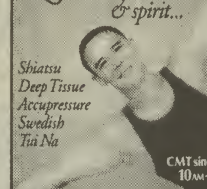
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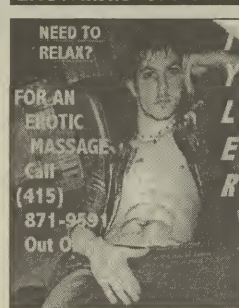
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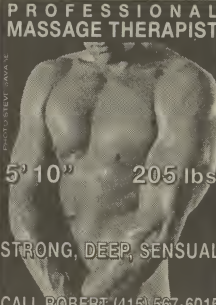
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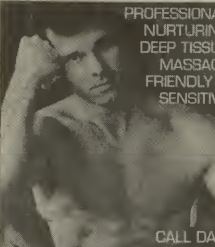
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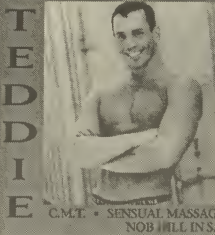
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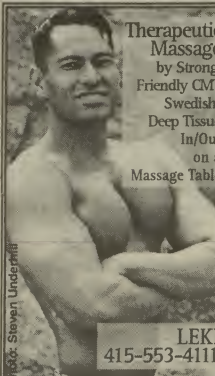
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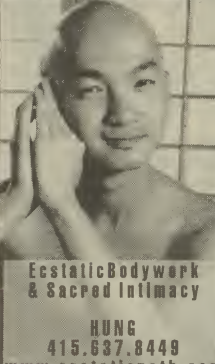
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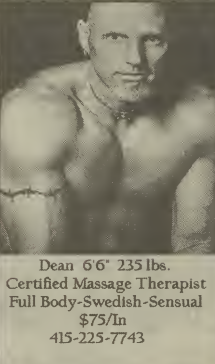
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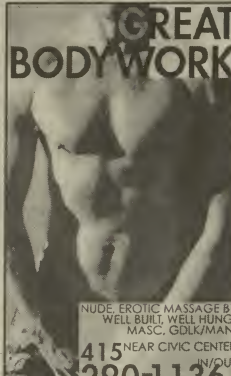
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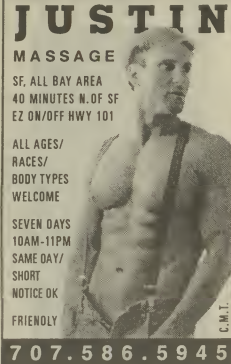
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2002
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MODEL/ESCORTS

Dominant Leatherman
42yo,
6'1", 220#,
Brown Hair,
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Blue Eyes,
mustache,
7" Uncut.
Bondage,
SM, WS,
CBT,
F/F,
Fetish,
Slave
Training.

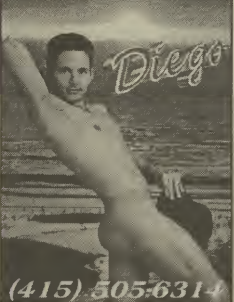
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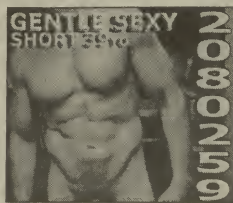
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One excruciating hour one great
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647-6212 "Pete" *** \$40/\$20

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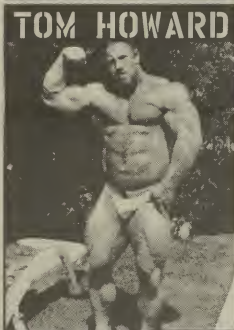
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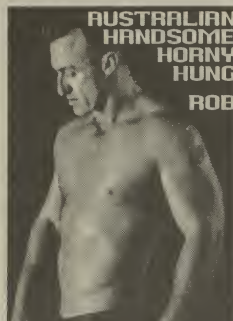
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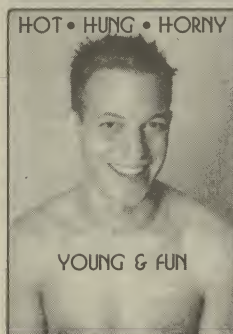
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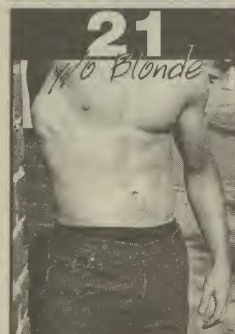
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XTRA HUNG DAD
All scenes-kink- 24hrs 255-8093,
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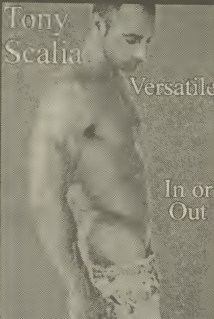
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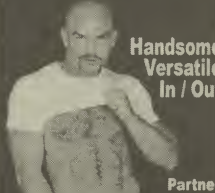
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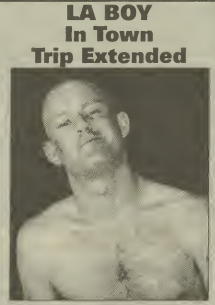
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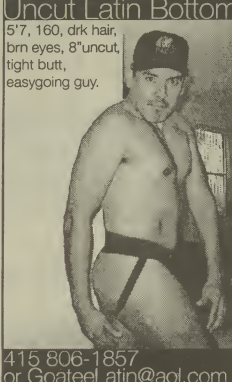
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Serving SF and all Bay Area.
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\$80/\$100 * JIM 269-5707

Mike, 37, 5'10", 200#, Bl/Blu
Clean-cut, Muscle Hung
In/Out \$100 (415) 863-8932

One excruciating hour one great
hand-job huge SF bear 6'4", 280#
647-6212 "Pete" *** \$40/\$20

Get Naked/Relax/Hug/Release/
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7" cut Hot BubbleButt Cleancut
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5'9", 135#, 6'c, Thin Swimmer's Build,
Great Legs & Ass, Cute, Boyish & Playful.
In-Out, Versatile/Open Minded. 24/7.
Nick: 415-414-4200.

DOMINANT ASIAN TOP

Handsome good body 5'11", 160 lbs
Sexy \$80/in, 100/out David 297-6568

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GAY PRIDE ISSUE

2002

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GAY PRIDE DEADLINES

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Call: 1-900-255-2221 \$2.99 min.
18+. \$3.49 connection charge.

PEOPLE

WANTED!

BAY AREA MEN

- Live Talk
- Meet Ads
- Voice Mail

24 Hours
\$2.00
976-7500

Free
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24 HOUR MEN!

24 hours a day HOT, HUNG MEN
are looking to HOOK-UP on Club
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Use Access code 1737

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MRN

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ROCK HARD MEN!!!

are waiting to
Tempt YOU!!! 18+ only!

Call 415-247-5555

or 510-749-9966

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Strap You! 510-654-1122

W Male 44 yrs, 6', 160 lbs, Br/Hzl,
HIV+ seeks W male, slim under 50
yrs for make out sessions, kissing, tit
play, massage. 415-558-3020 Ext 134

Expert Bodyshave and Trim
\$20 Hr. Robert (415) 777-5911 appt

S.F. SPANK PARTY INFO

415-864-2766 or Private Session

Skilled, fuckable throat on a huge SF
bear 46, 6'4" 280# swallowing semen
from slender/athletic tops with six
hard inches or more. Blondes/ Blacks,
please kick back! ***Alex
647-6212. Got all night?

Local Studs: 1-866-865-0566. 18+

INSTANT SEX DATELINE

Sale VHS

9 Jocks \$100

15 Falcon \$125

7 Falcon Intl \$75

5 Lukas \$100

4 Bel Ami \$50

Call 415 505 7405

Btw 3pm-5pm x Wed.

Old-fat-ugly GWM looking for
someone to teach me some
exercises to help get rid of my
gut. Call Ray 564-8159

Butt Bottoms wanted for FF/toys
415-752-0971

XXX WEB

WHERE
men
MEET
men

OVER
10,000+
BAY AREA
members

- ALL VERIFIED PHOTO ADS
- INSTANT MESSAGING
- ALL LOCAL MEN

*Introductory 10-day membership for \$2.50. Available
to first-time members only. After 10-days, membership
renews at \$13.95 for 2-months. Membership
plan can be changed or canceled at any time.

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JOIN NOW FOR
ONLY \$2.50*

m4m4sex.com

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SPECIAL ENDS
MAY 30

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BAY AREA REPORTER

CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

Indicate
Type Style
Here ▼

X-BOLD Stops Here ▼

BOLD Stops Here ▼

CAPS Stops Here ▼

Regular Stops Here ▼

DEADLINE

NOON on MONDAY.

Payment must accompany ad.

No ads taken over the

telephone. If you have a

question, call 415.861.5019.

Display advertising rates

available upon request.

RATES

First line, Regular 4.50

All subsequent lines 3.00

CAPS double price

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PAYMENT

- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Personal Check
- ☐ Money Order
- ☐ Visa
- ☐ MasterCard
- ☐ American Express

Minimum \$10 charge.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Name

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Telephone

Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Issues

Classification

Amount Enclosed

MAIL WITH

PAYMENT TO:

Bay Area Reporter

395 Ninth Street

SF, CA 94103

OR FAX TO:

415.861.8144

OR E-MAIL:

baradv@aol.com

HEPATITIS A&B...no big deal, right?

Nausea so bad you want to die
A month away from work.
No appetite for weeks.
No sex. No beer, no wine,
no vodka. No gym.
Stuck in the hospital.
Yellow skin. Yellow eyes.
Fever. Chills.
And years later...
some liver damage,
maybe even death.

You can prevent all this—so why don't you?

The fact is, hepatitis *is* a very big deal. And men who have sex with men are at greater risk for hepatitis A and B. That's why the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends you get vaccinated to prevent these 2 serious diseases.

PROTECT YOURSELF! See your doctor about vaccination today. For referral to a gay-friendly physician near you, call GLMA at 1-877-LGBTDOC or visit our Web site at www.glma.org/hepatitis


AIC

San Francisco
Department of
Public Health

Adult Immunization Clinic
101 Grove Street (Grove and Polk)
Suite 405
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.554.2625

www.dph.sf.ca.us



GLMA
GAY & LESBIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

www.glma.org

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